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**A HISTORY OF THE
ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS**

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be handed over to the "Old Comrades' Fund"
of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.*



OFFICER OF THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

Frontispiece.

A HISTORY *of the* ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS LATE THE TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT

BY

HOWEL THOMAS

Member of the Council of the Honourable
Society of Cymmrodorion



T. FISHER UNWIN LTD.
LONDON: ADELPHI TERRACE



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**T. FISHER UNWIN LTD.
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First published in 1916

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PREFACE

THE published Historical Records of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers have long since been out of print ; and the present work is intended to satisfy a widespread and eager desire in Wales and elsewhere for particulars of the doings and adventures of that famous regiment during its existence of over two centuries.

The late Prince Consort, in his stirring address after presenting new colours to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1849 (see page 152), referred to the regiment as one "renowned for its valour, fortitude, steadiness, and discipline." This pithy encomium was no mere ceremonial eulogy. It simply described the true soldierly qualities which had characterized the deeds of the regiment in Marlborough's campaigns, in Minorca, in America, in Egypt, at Corunna, at Martinique, in the Peninsula, and at Waterloo ; and its subsequent history shows that in nearly every quarter of the globe—Canada, the West Indies, the Crimea, India, Ashantee, Burmah, China, and South Africa—the regiment not only maintained but increased its high reputation. In

the words recently written by the Hon. John Fortescue, the historian of the British Army, the career of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers has been "seldom without success and never without honour."

It is fitting, therefore, that the story of the achievements of a regiment which is the pride of Wales and one of the outstanding glories of the British Army should be told at a time like this, when a new generation is exhibiting in so marked a manner the traditional courage, cheerful endurance, and heroism of the British soldier.

My own interest in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was deepened by personal acquaintance during my boyhood at Carnarvon—over sixty years ago—with a veteran Royal Welsh Fusilier who frequently entertained my schoolmates and myself with his reminiscences of battles and sieges and weary marches. Published accounts of battles are mostly concerned with the tactics and strategy of the commanders, and do not always present a picture of the sort of man that fought in the ranks—the man whose part was not to reason why, but to do and die; his individuality was merged in the mass. A few of my recollections of old "Hugh General," as he was called, may afford a glimpse of at least one class of the men who, whatever their faults, endured, fought, and bled for Britain in by-gone days.

Old Hugh's tales were not all creditable to the teller; but what recked boys of that? All they cared for was the adventure—psychology never troubled their unsophisticated minds. Hugh gloated, for instance, over the exploit that gained for him his cognomen. He began the tale by describing how his boots had been worn out by incessant marching over rough country, over rocks, and through rivers, and how he was forced to cut off a portion of the tail of his coatee to wrap round his feet. "I could not stand it any longer," said he, "so I swore that I would get a pair of sound boots at the next battle, come what may. Well, I saw my chance at the next fight. A French general, with a fine pair of long boots came within range, and I shot him. That night, at the risk of my neck, I prowled about the battle-field until I found my man, and took off his boots, which I cut down and wore for many a day. My officers knew nothing about it, but my comrades so often joked me about my *general* that the name stuck to me."

I distinctly remember one day when the old fellow sat, as was his custom in fine weather, on some timber near to the steps of the Castle, the group of boys around him. One of us asked him how he felt during the charge of the Fusiliers at Albuhera. A singular change came over him. The aged man seemed to vanish

before our eyes, and in his place a resolute soldier stood up, and bending forward with his staff at the charge, stared intently at something in front of him, visualized to his ken by the recollection of the famous battle. Presently he shouted: "Teimlo! 'roeddwn yn teimlo fy mod yn myn'd ar fy mhen i'r Uffern, a'r diawl oedd ynddi, 'roeddwn am gymmeryd fy ngelyn yno gyda mi" ("Felt! I felt that I was about to plunge headlong into hell, and the devil was in it if I did not take my foe there with me").

Another of old Hugh's not very edifying stories was this: "Now, boys, people say that honesty is the best policy. I tell you it isn't. When we got into Badajoz I saw some of our fellows coming out of a shop with clocks and copper images [bronze statuettes, no doubt], so I thought 'I may as well have something too.' Into the shop I went, and took a small watch with jewels on the back. My sergeant laid hold of me and said I must come out to help him to get the men together. I slipped the watch into my pocket, and thought myself mighty clever not to have taken a large article; but next morning on parade there was the colonel looking as black as thunder, and with him the owner of the shop. The colonel told us that for once he was ashamed of the British soldier; then he ordered any of us who

had robbed this poor man to step out of the ranks. I did so, and gave the man his watch. No one else stirred. I got punishment, the others escaped scot-free. That's why I say that honesty is not always the best policy." This perversion was an affront to the moral standard of the boys, for they instantly cried out, "No, no, Hugh, that won't do; if you had not stolen the watch you would not have been punished."

So much for old Hugh. Those were rough days, when rough men were hammered into fine fighters by a stern discipline, even though on rare occasions the discipline relaxed after a hard-fought engagement. But the soldiers were not all of a rough class. Many an officer brought into his regiment sons of substantial farmers glad to serve with the young squire, and well brought up youths, then as now, filled with a spirit of adventure and love of country, joined the Colours; and there were not wanting among them truly religious men. In an old book, published in 1792, there is a reference to one named John Evans, in regard to whom it is stated that "he continued to preach and live the gospel till the battle of Fontenoy, where he was mortally wounded, and as his life was ebbing away he ceased not to exhort all that were round about him."

A more recent incident may be mentioned. About twenty years ago I made the acquaint-

ance, on board an ocean liner, of an officer commanding a Welsh regiment (not R.W.F.), and asked him his opinion of the Welshman as a soldier. His reply was: "He is rather hard to make, but once he is made there is no better soldier in the world. You can depend upon him to the last drop of his blood." That officer was an Irish gentleman who had passed many years among Welsh soldiers. The brave Captain Haggard, of the Welsh Regiment, evidently held the same opinion, as with his expiring breath he cried out, "Stick it! Welsh!" knowing full well that they would obey to the death.

The present history, so far as it relates to the period from 1689, when the regiment was formed, up to the year 1889, is virtually an abridgment of the Historical Record prepared by Mr. Richard Cannon, of the Adjutant-General's Office, which was published "By Authority" in 1850, and of the continuation of that Record which was published in 1889 by Messrs. Hatchards for Major Rowland Broughton-Mainwaring, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (now Brigadier-General Mainwaring, C.M.G.). Copies of the title-pages of these books will be found in the Appendix. A supplement has been added giving particulars of the foreign services of the regiment between 1889 and 1902.

Published official dispatches, histories of the British Army, short histories of British regi-

ments, and the well-got-up booklet written by Captain Skaife, now a wounded prisoner in Germany, have also been consulted.

The title-page of Broughton-Mainwaring's book demonstrates in a striking manner the confusion that has prevailed as to the spelling of the name of the regiment. "Welch" and "Welsh," "Fusilier" and "Fuzelier," they are all there.

"Fuzelier" may at once be dismissed as being etymologically incorrect. "Welch," according to the "Century Dictionary," is an *obsolete* form of "Welsh." Its common use having been discontinued, there seems no more reason for its preservation in the name of the regiment than for that of "Fusileer," used by Napier and his contemporaries. Fortunately we have not to depend upon "the taste and fancy of the speller" in this matter, because the point has been definitely decided by high military authority; the title "ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS" appears in the Army List, and in all documents now emanating from the War Office, and it is so spelt on the regimental Colour itself. The form "Welsh" was invariably employed by Cannon, and his example has been copied throughout the following pages.¹

¹ The officers of the senior battalions insist upon the use of "Welch," and their preference would have been deferred to but for the consideration that the regiment belongs to the King, and that His Majesty's Secretary of State for War has adopted the modern spelling of the word.

No alteration has been made in the spelling of the foreign place-names found in the records consulted.

The word "fusilier" signifies a soldier armed with a "fusil"—a musket or firelock—and was conferred in the first instance upon an Ordnance Corps raised in 1685 to guard the Artillery, so as to distinguish its members from the Gunners with whom they were associated.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers have some distinctive privileges. One of them is the wearing of the "Flash." The account of the origin of this distinguishing mark, given on page 145, which is based on the statements of General Mainwaring and Captain Skaife, may be accepted as authoritative, and will, no doubt, satisfy the curiosity felt on the subject by those interested in everything pertaining to the regiment.

The unique right of the Pioneers of the regiment to wear white buckskin aprons and gauntlets on parade is referred to on page 241.

Another privilege enjoyed by the regiment is that of passing in review preceded by a goat with gilded horns. "So old is this custom," says Captain Skaife, "that no record exists of the first Billy." It was in 1844 that Her Majesty Queen Victoria presented the first "Royal" goats—one to each battalion. They

have ever since been provided from the flock in Windsor Park.

Apart from their brilliant war record, it is a noteworthy fact that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers have always earned the good opinion of the inhabitants of the towns in which they have been quartered for their excellent behaviour and regard for the amenities of civil life.

Time was, and that no further back than 1881, when most regiments were known by their numbers. The present generation is, however, becoming more and more accustomed to the titular designations, and readers of past military histories find it no easy matter at times to identify the regiments whose gallant deeds are recorded. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, thanks to the late Earl of Powis (see page 223), still carry their old name, and its former number of 23rd has not yet been forgotten; but how many in these days know that the first battalion of the Middlesex Regiment is the old 57th mentioned in military history as the "Die Hards" of Albuhera; or that Colin Campbell's "ain laddies," the 93rd, are now represented by the second battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; or that the 52nd, in which Dr. Fitchett's "fiery Welshman" (Captain (afterwards Major) Jones of Cefn y Coed, near Carnarvon) served, is now the second battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire

Light Infantry? These instances might be multiplied. To enable the reader to distinguish the regiments associated from time to time with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, a statement compiled from the Army List is given in the Appendix, which shows the numerical as well as the titular designations of all the British foot regiments.

A description of the Colours and particulars relating to the regiment, taken from the Army List, will also be found in the Appendix.

It would have added to the interest and value of this book if it had been practicable to include therein an account of the splendid services of the various battalions of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Flanders, France, and Gallipoli; but the inclusion of such scraps of information as have filtered through the hands of the Censor would have been a most incomplete presentment of those services. A worthy record of the heroic deeds of the regiment during the present great war ought certainly to be written when happily the war is over.

It is anticipated that the sale of this book at a low price will be sufficiently large to enable me to hand over an acceptable contribution to the "Old Comrades' Fund" of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

My grateful acknowledgments are tendered to Mr. John T. Lewis and Mr. Pepyat W. Evans

for their generous assistance in ensuring the production of this book ; to Messrs. Hatchards and General Broughton-Mainwaring for their permission to make use of the latter's work ; to Lieutenant-Colonel H. Delmé-Ratcliffe for permission to copy his plates ; and to the authors of the other books and documents from which I have gathered the information embodied in this history.

H. T.

KENSINGTON, *August* 1915.

BOOK I
THE "BOYNE" TO "WATERLOO"

CHAPTER I

THE regiment was formed by command of His Majesty William III very soon after he was proclaimed King of England.

The events immediately preceding its formation may be briefly stated as follows: King James II had brought the affairs of his kingdom to such a condition that the leading nobility and gentry, voicing the general desire of the country, invited William, Prince of Orange, the husband of Princess Mary (King James's eldest daughter) to intervene in arms for the restoration of English liberty and the preservation of the Protestant religion. Prince William landed at Torbay on the 5th of November, 1688. He and his army were enthusiastically received; nobles and squires and military officers flocked into his camp, and risings in his favour occurred in various parts of the country. King James fled to France, and on the 13th of February, 1689, Prince William and Princess Mary were proclaimed King and Queen of England.

A formidable opposition to the revolution was offered by the adherents of the exiled monarch

in Ireland, where the majority, being Roman Catholics, naturally regarded his cause as their own. King James, assisted by the King of France (who had good cause for dreading any increase of William's power) with men, money, and a fleet, proceeded to Ireland, landed at Kinsale on the 12th of March, 1689, and soon afterwards made his public entry into Dublin.

These circumstances called for an augmentation of the British Army, and twelve new regiments were formed, three of which have since been retained on the establishment, namely, the 22nd (Cheshire), the 23rd (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), and the 24th (South Wales Borderers).

THE RAISING OF THE 23RD

On the 17th of March, 1689, King William III authorized Lord Herbert of Cherbury to raise a regiment of infantry; but, his lordship finding himself unable to undertake its command, the colonelcy was conferred upon his relative, Charles Herbert, on the 10th of April following.

The regiment, which now bears the title of "The Royal Welsh Fusiliers," was formed of men recruited in Wales and the adjacent counties, and consisted of thirteen companies, each company including sixty men with three sergeants, three corporals, and two drummers. After a few months' successful recruiting and training it was brought into a state of fitness

for military duty. The headquarters were fixed at Ludlow, in Shropshire.

CAMPAIGN IN IRELAND

Marshal Schomberg embarked on the 12th of August, 1689, with some of his troops; the remainder (including the Royal Welsh Fusiliers), who had been detained by the lack of shipping, did not reach Ireland until the 30th of that month. It was not long before James was at the head of an army numerically stronger than that of his opponent. Schomberg passed the winter at Dundalk, where he received considerable reinforcements. The Irish army at Ardee was also reinforced by a large number of trained soldiers from France.

1690. King William arrived in Ireland and took command in person of his army, which now amounted to 30,000 men, and on the 30th of June, 1690, this army passed Ardee and halted on the bank of the River Boyne. On the 1st of July the British and Dutch troops forded the river at three places under musketry fire from the opposite bank, which was lined by King James's levies. Schomberg came accidentally under the fire of his own men and was killed, but by the generalship of King William the enemy was routed. James once more fled to France.¹

¹ The spurs worn by Major Toby Purcell, of the R.W.F., at the battle of the Boyne were preserved in the regiment, in

The turn of events abroad recalled King William from Ireland; the campaign in that country was, however, continued with varying fortunes.

1691. Early in 1691 General de Ghinkel captured Athlone and attacked the enemy at Aughrim. A fierce battle ensued in which the French General St. Ruth was killed and the Irish rebellion practically crushed.

The 23rd suffered severely in the battle of Aughrim, and their Colonel, Charles Herbert, pushing the enemy briskly from the hedges to their main body, was unfortunately taken prisoner by the Irish, who, seeing a probability of his being rescued, put him to death.

On the following day Major Toby Purcell was promoted to the command of the regiment, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

On the 26th of July Galway capitulated. The 23rd was one of the regiments selected to take possession, and remained there until the 23rd of November, when it left for England.

THE GRAND ALLIANCE

King William, being zealous in his efforts to resist the ambition and power of Louis XIV of

the custody of the senior major for the time being, until 1842, when they were lost in a fire which utterly consumed the house of Major Holmes, at Montreal.

France, had in 1689 dispatched several British regiments, under the Earl of Marlborough, to Flanders, to unite with the troops of other nations in thwarting the designs of France. In January 1691 King William went over to The Hague, where on his arrival plenipotentiaries from the several States forming the *Grand Alliance* assembled to concert measures for checking further conquests by the French and for preserving the liberties of Europe.

The great Congress broke up in March. An army, 50,000 strong, was assembled at Halle. In April Mons surrendered to the French. King William returned to England in October, and, affairs in Ireland having become settled, he again went to Holland early in the following year.

1692. On the 20th of April, 1692, Sir John Morgan, Bart., became colonel of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers in succession to Colonel Toby Purcell, deceased.

The regiment was stationed in England during 1692 while other British regiments were fighting in Flanders. Namur surrendered to the French; the fierce battle of Steenkirk was fought with great loss to the Confederate force; but the towns of Furnes and Dixmude were taken by the British.

1693. Colonel Sir John Morgan died early in 1693 and Lieutenant-Colonel Richard In-

goldsby was promoted from the 18th Regiment to the colonelcy of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

CAMPAIGN IN FLANDERS

1694. Four regiments, including the 23rd, were sent out early in 1694 to join the British army in Flanders. They went into quarters at Ostend and Nieuport.

On the 4th of June the French took up order of battle at Gemblours ; but no general engagement ensued. The Confederate army performed many long and tedious marches to counteract the movements of the enemy.

HUY

King William determined to dispossess the enemy of the town and castle of Huy. The French entrenched near Courtray, with strong detachments covering Ypres, Menin, Bruges, Furnes, and Dunkirk. By the 19th of September the batteries were raised against the castle, on the 21st the trenches were opened, and the attacks were so vigorously carried on that, all being ready on the 27th for a grand assault, the French Governor beat a parley and surrendered on the 28th. This conquest expelled the French from the Bishopric of Liège. No further operations took place during 1694. The 23rd and other regiments repaired to winter quarters at Bruges.

NAMUR

1695. On the return of King William to the Continent in May 1695 the opposing armies commenced taking the field. The 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers were brigaded with the 5th, the 7th, and the 18th Regiments, Collingwood's regiment (afterwards disbanded) and a regiment of French Protestants in the English service, all under Brigadier-General Fitzpatrick. The Confederate army marched in June in four columns from Arseele to Rouselaer, thence to Becelar in the vicinity of the enemy's lines between Ypres and the Lys. Marshal Villeroy, the French commander, seeing his lines threatened, passed the Scheldt and the Lys. The French had during the winter provided for quick marches by making royal ways (as they were termed) from Mons to the sea to facilitate the passage of their troops. With this object they had cut and pulled down every obstacle in their path, without regard to houses or villages, so that a squadron could march abreast.

In the preceding year King William was satisfied with arresting the progress of the French arms; but now he resolved to recover the strong and important fortress of Namur. As a diversion to favour operations of his main army certain regiments were detached under Lord Cutts to threaten Fort Knocque at the junction of the Loo and Dixmude Canals. On

the 1st of July Lord Cutts returned to the camp with six battalions, including the 23rd. The brigade lost before Fort Knocque three officers killed, 32 wounded, and 337 men killed and wounded.

Namur was completely invested on the 3rd of July with its garrison, which had been reinforced up to a strength of 15,000 of the best troops of France. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers formed part of the force which marched on the 8th of July into the lines of circumvallation. On the evening of that day a successful attack was made on the covered way upon the hill of Bouge. "It was about 7 p.m.," wrote an eye-witness, "and such were the spirit and energy with which the British soldiers rushed upon their opponents that the palisades were speedily broken down, the covered way carried, and the French overpowered and chased away among the works, many of them throwing themselves into stone-pits to escape the fury of their assailants." Captain Hamilton and Lieutenant Jasaut of the 23rd were killed in this action.

The counterscarp was attacked on the 17th of July; fifteen grenadiers detached from each regiment—about fifty in all—gallantly advanced at 5 p.m. to the glacis, and fired their grenades over the palisades into the covered way. Traverses palisaded the entire length of this covered way. The enemy disputed lodgments

upon the glacis with great obstinacy, and the Royal Welsh and the Scots Fusiliers marched out of the trenches to the assistance of the grenadiers. When they came to place the woolsacks and gabions on the palisades of the glacis, the French set them on fire and sprang two or three mines. After fierce hand-to-hand conflict lodgment was at length effected and the enemy was forced to abandon the counterscarp. The British casualties were about 700 or 800 killed and wounded. The regiment had Lieutenant Brooker and Ensign Paget killed, and Captains Purefoy, Jones, and Steadman, Lieutenants Ogilby, Moor, Disney, and Lloyd, and Ensigns Patterson and Johnson wounded.

The regiment was in the trenches on the evening of the 20th of July, the day on which King William received the news of the surrender of Dixmude to the French, for which Major-General Ellenberg was afterwards tried by court-martial and beheaded at Ghent on the 30th of November, 1695.

The garrison of Namur surrendered the town on the 25th of July and retired to the castle, determined to defend it to the last extremity.

The 23rd marched out to Genappe, where a force was assembled under the Earl of Athlone (formerly General de Ghinkel), to co-operate

with the covering army, but shortly afterwards it was detached from Athlone's army to reinforce the army under the Prince of Vaudemont. When Marshal Villeroy desisted from his attack on Brussels the Prince brought his force within five miles of Namur, and Villeroy marched towards that place.

On the 30th of August the grenadier company of the 23rd took part in an assault upon the castle of Namur. The storming of the counterscarp and of the breach of the Terra Nova proved to be a severe and sanguinary service; assailants and defenders fought bravely, but the castle was not carried. Captain Parry of the 23rd was killed. Preparations were made for another assault, and the garrison, despairing of succour from Villeroy, was forced to surrender. At the capitulation the 23rd took possession of the gates. Altogether, the Allies lost 12,000 killed and wounded in recovering Namur from the French.

No further actions occurred in 1695. Towards the end of October the Royal Welsh Fusiliers returned to their former winter quarters at Bruges.

1696. On the 31st of May, 1696, King William promoted several officers, among them Colonel Ingoldsby, who was appointed brigadier.

The regiment moved about from place to place, but no considerable engagement was fought, and eventually it once more occupied winter quarters at Bruges.

THE TREATY OF RYSWICK

1697. King William's army commenced operations for another campaign, but while the troops were in the field negotiations were opened at Ryswick for a general peace. France was exhausted, and King Louis as well as King William wished to be free to deal with the question of the Spanish succession at the expected demise of the King of Spain.

The Treaty of Ryswick, signed in September 1697, included among other concessions by France the recognition of William III as King of England, and the restoration to Spain of a portion of the Netherlands.

After the conclusion of the peace of Ryswick the regiment went to Ireland, where it remained until the death of Charles II of Spain without issue, in November 1700, occasioned it to be again sent out on foreign service.

CHAPTER II

THE WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION

1700. King Charles of Spain, brother-in-law of Louis XIV, had bequeathed his crown to Philip, Duke of Anjou, second son of the Dauphin of France, and in violation of a treaty whereby the claim of the family of the French King to the throne of Spain had been renounced, Louis endeavoured to procure the accession of his grandson. Claims were also made on behalf of Archduke Charles, the second son of the Emperor of Germany, and by the Prince of Bavaria.

King William's efforts to free the Netherlands from the domination of Spain were in peril of being nullified, and the predominance of France in Spanish affairs once more threatened the liberties of Europe.

Louis sent troops to take possession of the Spanish Netherlands, and detained 15,000 Dutch who formed the garrisons of the barrier-towns. King William set about increasing his Army and Navy and detailed thirteen British regiments

(among them the Royal Welsh Fusiliers) to assist the Dutch against the advance of the French troops towards their frontiers.

1701. Brigadier-General Ingoldsby, with the 16th and 23rd Regiments, arrived in Holland on the 30th of June, 1701, and proceeded to Worcum and Heusden.

James II died on the 16th of September, 1701, at St. Germain, and Louis XIV, disregarding his pledge in the Treaty of Ryswick to recognize William as King of England, ordered the proclamation of James's son as King of England, Scotland, and Ireland by the title of King James III. This was keenly resented by the vast majority of the British people. King William concluded an alliance with the Emperor of Germany and the Dutch Staats-General, and thus a *New Grand Alliance* was formed against the French monarch, the principal objects of which were to procure the Spanish Netherlands as a barrier for the Dutch and to prevent the domination of France in Spain. Denmark, Sweden, the Palatinate, and most of the German States, and eventually Savoy joined the Alliance.

1702. King William died on the 8th of March, 1702, and was succeeded by Queen Anne, who determined to carry out the views of her predecessor; additional forces were sent to Flanders, and the Earl of Marlborough was

appointed Captain-General of the British, Dutch, and auxiliary troops.

In the meantime the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, having passed the winter among the Dutch, went on the 10th of March to Rosendael, where the British infantry were encamped under Brigadier-General Ingoldsby. The regiment then proceeded with the other British troops to the Duchy of Cleves, and encamped at Cranenburgh on the Lower Rhine to cover the siege by a German and Dutch force of the strong fortress of Kayserswerth on the Waal. The French army traversed the Forest of Cleves with the object of surprising Nimeguen. The Earl of Athlone advanced to Nimeguen. Some sharp skirmishing ensued between Athlone's rearguard and leading columns of the French army. Nimeguen was saved, and on the 17th of June Kayserswerth surrendered to the Allies.

At this period the Duchy of Cleves had been overrun by the enemy, who menaced the frontiers of Holland.

The Earl of Marlborough took up his command. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers formed part of his force, and were employed in several movements designed to bring on a general action, which, however, the enemy avoided. Venloo was invested, on the 29th of August—the regiment forming part of the covering army.

The town surrendered on the 25th of September, and Stevenswaert and Ruremonde were captured early in October.

LIÉGE

Animated by these successes, the main army struck its tents at 1 a.m. on the 10th of October and advanced in two columns towards the city of Liége. Marshal Boufflers thereupon abandoned the city and, setting on fire the suburbs of St. Walburg, retired into the citadel and the chartreuse. The citadel was taken by storm on the 23rd of October, in the capture of which the grenadier company of the 23rd distinguished itself. Marlborough wrote: "By the extraordinary bravery of the officers and soldiers the citadel has been carried by storm, and to the honour of Her Majesty's subjects the English were the first that got upon the breach." A few days afterwards the chartreuse surrendered and Marlborough proceeded to England, where his services were rewarded with a dukedom. In 1702 the Royal Welsh Fusiliers consisted of 44 commissioned officers and 840 other ranks.

The British troops quitted the Valley of Liége in November and marched to winter quarters in Holland.

MINOR OPERATIONS

1703. On the 24th of April, 1703, Bonn was invested by the Dutch and Germans, and Marshals Villeroy and Boufflers, taking advantage of the dispersed state of the Allies, surprised two British regiments in camp at Tongres, who after defending themselves for twenty-four hours surrendered. Upon this the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments proceeded to Maestricht and formed in order of battle near the fortifications. The French reconnoitred, and after a short cannonade withdrew to Tongres. Bonn having fallen on the 15th of May, the army assembled near Maestricht, where the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were brigaded with a battalion of Foot Guards and other regiments, including their compatriots of the 24th, all under Brigadier-General Withers, in the division commanded by Lieutenant-General Charles Churchill, brother of the Duke of Marlborough.

On the 24th of May the French retreated precipitately from Tongres. The Allies encamped at Thys. Marlborough made several movements with a view to bringing on a general engagement, which, however, the French avoided. The Duke proposed to attack the French fortified lines, but his wishes were foiled by the opposition of the Dutch generals; his disappointment was inten-

sified by his keen sympathy with his soldiers in their harassing, fruitless marches. Operations continued against the fortified towns. Huy and Limburg were captured by the Allies, and Spanish Guelderland was delivered from the power of France. The Allied army went into winter quarters in Dutch Brabant.

1704. Early in 1704 a detachment of the Welsh Fusiliers proceeded to strengthen the garrison of Maestricht.

MARLBOROUGH'S BOLD STROKE

The Elector of Bavaria embraced the French interest, and a combined Bavarian and French force mustered near the Danube which threatened to overpower the army of the Emperor of Germany.

The Duke of Marlborough, keeping his intention secret not only from his enemies but also from his Dutch allies, resolved to lead his army from the ocean to the Danube and make a powerful effort to change the fortunes of war in the heart of Germany. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, after being joined at Bedburg by the detachment from Maestricht, took part in this bold enterprise.

On the 19th of May the army marched from Bedburg along the Rhine towards the Moselle, traversed both rivers at Coblenz, moving thence towards the Maine, passed the Neckar on the

15th of June, and shortly afterwards joined the Imperial army under the Prince of Baden.

SCHELLENBERG

On the 2nd of July the Allies attacked the enemy's entrenched camp on the heights of Schellenberg—the leading division consisting of a detachment from each British regiment with the Foot Guards, Royals, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and a Dutch force. Owing to the difficulties of the ground, the formidable preparations of the enemy, and the steady bravery of the Bavarians, the contest was very severe. The Royal Welsh and the other troops who commenced the attack suffered the most. The French and Bavarians were forced to abandon the heights, leaving guns, standards, tents, and baggage behind them. In his report of this engagement Marlborough bore testimony to the “unparalleled courage of his troops.”

The casualties in the regiment were—*Killed*: Captains Harman and Ogilvy; Lieutenants Frazier, Agan, and Price, 6 sergeants and 60 men. *Wounded*: Colonel Sabine, Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, Major Ingoldsby, Captain Eyme, Lieutenants Jeverau, Katrick, Richards, Cadroy, Piggot, Aldy, and Jones, 6 sergeants and 156 men.

After this victory Donauwerth was taken possession of by the Allies, who penetrated into

Bavaria. The Elector of Bavaria concentrated his forces at Augsburg. The Allies captured Rain and besieged Ingoldstadt.

BLLENHEIM

The Elector quitted his entrenched camp at Augsburg and, joined by reinforcements sent by Louis, encamped in the valley of the Danube near the village of Blenheim. The Allied army under the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugène of Savoy advanced to the village of Munster. Each army numbered over 50,000 men, but the Allies had only 50 cannon to the 90 of their opponents.

The plain upon which the two armies faced each other on the 13th of August was about two leagues in length and of unequal width, the entrance into it about the breadth of a cannon-shot, widening soon after to about a league. It was bordered on one side by the wood of Schellenberg and on the other by the Danube, whilst three or four rivulets, and several marshes with a number of scattered villages and hamlets, impeded the advance of the Allies.

The French and Bavarians occupied a strong position behind a rivulet, and the French cavalry in the centre could not be reached without crossing a swamp. The enemy's right wing was commanded by Marshal Tallard; on his left were the Bavarians and French troops under the Elector and Marshal de Marsin.

The morning was consumed in repeated endeavours to come into close quarters with the enemy, but the obstacles rendered this very difficult.

Marlbrough (like the Iron Duke, and in fact every general in high command of British troops) felt confident that the military spirit and courage of his soldiers would overmatch the advantages possessed by his foes, so after a brisk cannonade he gave orders for a general attack just before 1 p.m. Major-General Wilks made the first onset with the 10th, 15th, 21st, 23rd, and 24th Regiments under Brigadier-General Row, followed in support by four battalions of Hessians, fifteen squadrons of cavalry, and eleven infantry battalions.

Proceeding along the banks of the small river Nebel, they seized two water-mills, then advancing through some enclosures made a determined attack on the French infantry posted in the village of Blenheim. This attack was met by a gallant resistance on the part of the French, and the Allied troops had to fall back. After repeated attacks on the village had proved unavailing, the approaches to it were blockaded by a few corps; and presently a way was constructed across the swamp.

Marlbrough in person led two furious cavalry charges, which broke the French centre and forced it to surrender.

Volleys of musketry and charges of cavalry continued with varying success, and amidst this storm of war the Royal Welsh Fusiliers frequently distinguished themselves. At 8 o'clock in the evening the enemy was finally defeated. Marshal Tallard with numerous bodies of infantry and squadrons of cavalry were taken prisoners, whilst an immense quantity of baggage and guns fell into the hands of the victors.

Bavaria was subdued, and the Empire delivered from the threatened danger. The genius of Marlborough and the bravery of his soldiers had—to quote the words of Marshal Tallard—"conquered the best troops in the world."

The total loss of the Allies was 4,485 killed, 7,525 wounded, and 273 missing. Of the enemy nearly 10,000 were slain, a considerable number drowned in the Danube, and about 14,000 were made prisoners of war. Major George Morgan, Captain Henry Cookman, Lieutenants Hugh Smith, Griffith Jones, Bailey, Fleetwood, Dormer, Rowland, Patterson, and Adjutant Powel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were wounded. No record exists of the officers who were killed or of the loss of the regiment in non-commissioned officers and men.

Several regiments escorted the prisoners to Holland, but the 23rd remained in Germany. It marched through Suabia, crossed

the Rhine on the 7th of September, and was subsequently encamped at Croon-Weissemberg as part of the covering army during the siege of Landau by the Germans. Ulm surrendered on the 11th of September; and large quantities of arms, ammunition, stores, and provisions were captured and supplied to the troops investing Landau. That town surrendered on the 24th of November. The 23rd and three other corps had left Croon-Weissemberg on the 13th of October and sailed down the Rhine to Holland, where they were placed in garrison for the winter.

1705. On the 1st of April, 1705, Lieutenant-General Richard Ingoldsby was transferred to the 18th Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Sabine, who was wounded at Schellenberg, was promoted to the colonelcy of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

On the 7th of May the 23rd and 24th Regiments proceeded with the Duke of Marlborough to the Moselle Valley. The Duke's plan of attack along the line of the Moselle was, however, frustrated by the tardiness and inefficient state of the Imperial army, and he was compelled to make a retrograde movement to the Netherlands to arrest the progress of the French there. On his way he caused the French to raise the siege of Liège. A

detachment of the 23rd assisted in the recapture of Huy, and in forcing the French fortified lines near the River Dyle. Marlborough's plan of attacking Villeroy was rejected, and the Dutch generals withdrew their troops. In the autumn the French lines were demolished and the small town and fortress of Sandvliet on the Scheldt was captured. The regiment marched to winter quarters in Holland.

RAMILLIES

1706. The 23rd joined the camp at Tongres on the 19th of May, 1706. Four days later, as the army was advancing in eight columns, information was received that the French, Spaniards, and Bavarians were taking up a position at Mount St. André with their centre in the village of Ramillies, and the Allies immediately prepared for action. The 23rd, which was on the right of the line, made a demonstration of attacking the enemy's left. The French general weakened his centre to support the threatened point. Marlborough instantly attacked the weakened centre. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were not actively engaged in the early part of the battle. A crisis at length arrived, and the brigades on the right were ordered into action, when the regiment evinced that intrepidity and firmness for which it had been distinguished on former occasions, and

another victory exalted the fame of the British arms. The French lost 15,000 men and their guns, and the wreck of their army fled precipitately to Louvain, but immediately afterwards abandoned that city and also Brussels. The principal towns of Brabant and several in Flanders were delivered up. Ostend, however, held out, and in June the 23rd marched through Arseele to Rouselaer and formed part of the army covering the siege of Ostend. Ostend surrendered in the beginning of July. Menin, Dendermond, and Aeth were besieged and taken, the regiment forming part of the covering army. On the 3rd of October it proceeded to Ghent and took up winter quarters there in November.

1707. In May 1707 the Royal Welsh Fusiliers again took the field, being brigaded with the Foot Guards, the first battalion of the Royals, and the 16th Regiment under Brigadier-General Meredith. The regiment was in the first line of the order of battle at the camp at Meldart, near Louvain. The opposing armies passed the campaign in endeavouring to outmanœuvre each other. The French avoided a general action, and in October the Royal Welsh and other regiments returned to Ghent.

1708. King Louis tried to divert the attention of the British to their own country by preparing an expedition for placing the Pretender on the throne. The 23rd and ten English

regiments were dispatched to England. A French fleet with the Pretender on board sailed out of Dunkirk, but being chased by British men-of-war, retired without attempting a landing. The British troops then returned to Ostend, whence they proceeded through Bruges to Ghent. On the 22nd of May they left Ghent for the rendezvous of the army near Brussels. The French then took possession of Ghent and Bruges. They also invested Oudenarde, and here a general engagement was fought, in which new honours were gained by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

OUDENARDE

Oudenarde on the Scheldt was a connecting link for the alternate defence of Flanders or Brabant. It was invested by the French on the 9th of July. The Duke of Burgundy and Marshal Vendôme designed to occupy the strong position of Lessines on the Dender to cover the investment. By a forced march Marlborough reached Lessines before the French, and disconcerted their plans.

In order to meet the enemy on the march and bring on a general engagement, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were detached with a number of other corps under Major-General Cadogan to bridge the Scheldt near Oudenarde for the passage of the army. The French, who had thrown seven

battalions into the village of Heynem, made an unsuccessful attempt to dislodge Major-General Rantzan of the Allied force from an eminence on which he was posted. Hereupon Major-General Cadogan, who had passed the river, attacked Heynem with such vigour (Brigadier-General Sabine of the 23rd with his brigade leading) that the village and the seven battalions of Swiss regiments there were soon captured. After a short halt in the village the regiment attacked a body of troops posted in the enclosures and drove them from their ground. Advancing in pursuit, it was menaced in front and flank by the enemy's cavalry, and fell back to the hedges, where it repulsed the horsemen. Other brigades arriving on the scene, the whole advanced; a fierce conflict of musketry ensued, and night coming on, the remnant of the French army retreated in disorder towards Ghent.

The French lost 4,000 killed and wounded, and 7,000 were taken prisoners, including 11 generals and 700 other officers. Numerous standards were also captured. The loss of the Allies amounted to 3,000 killed and wounded.

LISLE (OR LILLE)

Lisle, the strongest of the frontier fortresses, was garrisoned by 15,000 men, commanded by the veteran Marshal Boufflers, and a large army was being gathered for its relief. The city was

invested by Prince Eugène of Savoy on the 13th of August, with Marlborough's main army at a convenient distance to cover the siege.

The counterscarp was stormed on the evening of the 7th of September. Eight hundred Grenadiers, supported by the same number of Fusiliers, with 2,000 workmen and 30 carpenters for cutting down the palisades, assaulted on the right, whilst 1,600 Grenadiers, backed by a like number of Fusiliers, attacked on the left. The troops in the trenches had been reinforced by a detachment of 2,000 men from the grand army, who were placed under the command of Brigadier-General Sabine, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. In this affair the regiment had 12 killed and 62 wounded. In another attack on the 21st of September, the Allies lost upwards of 1,000 men, and Prince Eugène was wounded.

Marlborough then assumed the command of the siege as well as that of his own army. Other attacks followed. The town surrendered on the 23rd of October, and the garrison retired to the citadel. During these operations, lasting from the 14th of August to the 22nd of October, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers lost 4 officers, 3 sergeants, and 115 men killed; and 11 officers, 15 sergeants, and 230 men wounded.

The Elector of Bavaria having marched towards Brabant, Marlborough and Prince Eugène concerted measures for crossing the

Scheldt to relieve Brussels. The enemy's positions were forced on the 27th of November, and the Elector made a hasty retreat from before Brussels.

After a gallant defence the citadel of Lisle capitulated on the 9th of December, and on the 18th of that month Ghent surrendered to the Allied army.

TOURNAY

1709. The regiment rested for a few months in winter quarters, where it received a body of recruits from England. It went on to Lisle in June 1709, and then took part in the manœuvres which induced Marshal Villars to weaken several of his garrisons for the purpose of reinforcing a line of entrenchments and forts in which he expected to be attacked. The object of the manœuvres having been gained, the siege of Tournay was commenced, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers forming part of the covering army. After a month's defence the town surrendered, the garrison retiring to the citadel. The citadel was situated on high ground, and its siege was rendered most difficult by the multiplicity of subterranean works. Approaches were carried on by sinking pits several fathoms deep and tunnelling towards the casemates. The troops thus engaged frequently encountered and fought parties of the enemy. Sometimes

the men at work were inundated with water, at other times they were suffocated by smoke, or were buried by the explosion of mines; but they persevered, and the citadel capitulated on the 3rd of September.

MALPLAQUET

The Allied army marched with the intention of laying siege to Mons; but on their march they met the French army under Marshals Villars and Boufflers near Malplaquet, when a most sanguinary engagement ensued, the loss of life being greater than at the battles of Blenheim, Ramillies, and Oudenarde put together. One account gives the loss of the French as 12,000, and states that the victory of the Allies cost them nearly double that number.

The army commanded by the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugène of Savoy was under arms early on the morning of the 11th of September. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments appeared on the ground where they had passed the night, and divine service was performed by the chaplain.

A thick mist overspread the woods and open ground, concealing the armies from each other. Under cover of the fog the artillery was brought forward, dispositions made for the attack, and two powerful armies under commanders of

renown stood arrayed against each other. Shortly after 8 o'clock sharp cannonading commenced on both sides. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers formed part of a division engaged in assaulting the entrenchments in the wood of Taisnière. A new and intrepid temper was displayed by the French soldiery ; but notwithstanding the impediments from barricades of felled trees the enemy, after an hour's resistance, were driven from their entrenchments. Other attacks raged in various parts of the field. Eventually the enemy's position was broken, and the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments drove the French from the woods to the plain, where a successful charge of cavalry decided the battle in favour of the Allies. Sixteen guns, 20 colours, 26 standards, and many prisoners were captured.

The regiment had Lieutenants Bartley, Fullerton, and Parker killed ; and Captains Jeffro, Brett, and Vincent, Lieutenants Skane, Price, Powel, Aspee, and Gordon wounded. The number of non-commissioned officers and men who fell is not recorded.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers afterwards assisted in the capture of Mons, which took place on the 20th of October, after a siege of a month's duration. They then marched to winter quarters at Ghent.

DOUAY

1710. In April 1710 the army, including the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, invested Douay. The works were strong, numerous, and well garrisoned. The regiment assisted in repelling numerous sallies, and the French army under Marshal Villars vainly endeavoured to raise the siege. Douay surrendered on the 27th of June. During the siege the casualties of the regiment were 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 5 sergeants, and 49 men killed; 2 captains, 7 lieutenants, 10 sergeants, and 137 men wounded. Its officers were reduced to two effective captains.

After taking part in covering the successful sieges of Bethune, Aire, and St. Venant, the regiment marched to winter quarters at Courtray.

1711. Preliminary to the campaign of 1711 the French had prepared a line of entrenchments to cover their country. Marshal Villars had styled them "Marlborough's *Ne plus ultra*"; but Marlborough, by a series of skilful movements, passed them at Arleux on the 5th of August. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers participated in these operations, and in the siege and capture of Bouchain. They remained at Bouchain until the works were repaired, and then went into winter quarters.

THE TREATY OF UTRECHT

The Austrian claimant to the throne of Spain had been elected Emperor of Germany in succession to his late brother Joseph. The course of events had shown that the French prince was accepted by the Spanish people. These circumstances led to the abandonment of the original aim of the contest for the Spanish succession.

1712. The regiment took the field once more in April 1712, when it formed part of the army under the Duke of Ormond, the Duke of Marlborough having been removed from his military appointments for a political cause. It covered the siege of Quesnoy. Soon after the surrender of that town a suspension of hostilities was proclaimed preparatory to a treaty of peace between the British and the French. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers mustered 670 men on the day when they marched from Cambresis towards Ghent, where Major-General Sabine remained with the regiment in command of the citadel until the Treaty of Utrecht was signed on the 11th of April, 1713.

1713. By that famous treaty the Protestant succession in England was recognized by Louis XIV, the separation of Spain and France secured, the fortifications of Dunkirk (the home of the French privateers) demolished, Nova Scotia, Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, and St. Chris-

topher (St. Kits) ceded to England. Spain yielded Naples, Milan, and the Spanish Netherlands to the Emperor of Germany. Sicily was separated from Naples and transferred to the Duke of Savoy; the Dutch obtained Namur, Charleroi, and other strong places as a frontier barrier. Great Britain was confirmed in her possession of Gibraltar and Minorca, taken by her troops during the war.

THE FUSILIERS RETURN HOME

1714. Shortly after peace was declared the regiment returned to England, and was subsequently stationed in Ireland, where, on the 1st of August, 1714, it received the news of the death of Queen Anne and the accession of King George I.

Major-General Sabine had been the colonel of the regiment since April 1705, but on the accession of King George I he received a new commission, in which he was described as "Colonel of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fuzeliers."

1715. During the Earl of Mar's rebellion in Scotland the regiment left Ireland and was quartered near Chester. Louis XIV of France died in September of this year.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers continued on the Home Establishment for several years, during

which period they were more than once stationed at Edinburgh Castle. They were in London when in 1723 a plot was discovered to seize the Tower; and were subsequently quartered at Chester. King George I died in 1727. George Augustus Eliott (afterwards Lord Heathfield), the celebrated Governor of Gibraltar, joined the regiment at Edinburgh in 1735 as a volunteer.

1739. General Joseph Sabine died on the 24th of October, 1739, and Lieutenant-Colonel Newsham Peers, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was promoted to the colonelcy of the regiment on the 23rd of the following month.

CHAPTER III

THE WAR OF THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION

1740. The Emperor Charles of Germany had published in 1713 what was termed "The Pragmatic Sanction" (to which several of the Powers of Europe were parties), whereby, in the event of his having no sons, his daughters were to succeed to his hereditary dominions in preference to the sons of his late brother Joseph. Charles died in October 1740, and his eldest daughter, the Archduchess Maria Theresa, wife of Duke Francis of Lorraine, ascended the throne of Hungary, Bohemia, and Austria. Her succession was, however, disputed by among others the Elector of Bavaria, whose claim to the Dukedom of Austria was supported by France, Spain, and Prussia.

1742. Bavaria was overrun by Queen Maria Theresa, and the French were driven out of Bohemia. George II decided, after some hesitation, to give active support to the Queen, and in May 1742 the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (who had been encamped for some time at

Lexden Heath, near Colchester) with other British regiments embarked for Flanders under the command of the Earl of Stair.

DETTINGEN

1743. Early in 1743 the Earl of Stair marched his forces towards the Rhine. At Aschaffenberg they were hemmed in by the army under Marshal Noailles, 60,000 strong. King George II joined and took command of his troops on the 9th of June, when a retreat was determined upon. One-half of the French army was drawn up at Dettingen to dispute the King's passage. The situation seemed hopeless; but on the 27th of June the British and Hanoverian soldiers received the impetuous attack of the French with such steadiness and courage that the latter were forced to fly in disorder across the Maine, with the loss of 5,000 of their number. The Allies lost 2,000. The casualties of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on this occasion were 15 men killed; Colonel Peers was mortally wounded. Lieutenant Price and 27 men were also wounded.

A month later Major-General John Huske was transferred from the 32nd to the colonelcy of the 23rd, which with the rest of the army, after some unimportant movements, went in October into winter quarters.

1744. In March 1744 war was formally declared between Great Britain and France. The French captured several towns in the Netherlands, but no other event of importance in which the British were engaged occurred.

FONTENOY

1745. A French army of 76,000 men under Marshal Saxe invested Tournay. The Duke of Cumberland, who commanded the Allied army of British, Austrians, and Dutch, marched to the relief of that town, although his force did not exceed 50,000. The French army was strongly posted behind the village of Fontenoy. The British infantry began the attack on the 11th of May. They drove the enemy from his lines; but the left wing, composed of Austrians and Dutch, failing in its attack on the village, the British were compelled to retire with great loss. They rallied, and pushed their opponents to their entrenchments, with much slaughter.

Lacking, however, the support of their left wing, the British troops became exposed to a withering fire from the French batteries, and a retreat was ordered which was effected in good order.

The regiment had Lieutenants Weaver, Price, Forster, and Isaac, 4 sergeants, and 181 privates killed; Captains Hickman, Cary, and Drysdale, Lieutenants Bernard, Izard, Awbry,

Clarke, Eyre, Roberts, and Rolt, 6 sergeants, and 71 privates wounded. Major Lort, Captains Sabine, Taylor, and Johnston, Lieutenants Berners, Gregg, Haws, and Lort, 5 sergeants, and 34 privates were missing.

In October the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, with several other regiments, were recalled from the Continent on the outbreak of the rebellion in Scotland. In December the regiment was sent to the south coast to guard against an anticipated descent by the French.

1746. It remained in England until the suppression of the Scotch rebellion, following the defeat of Prince Charles at Culloden on the 16th of April, 1746.

LAFFELD (OR VAL)

1747. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers returned to the Continent in 1747, and on the 2nd of July were engaged in the battle of Laffeld, or Val, where they again suffered from the misconduct of the Dutch. A squadron of Dutch horse fled and trampled down the infantry in their rear. Two platoons of the Royal Welsh fired upon them. The situation was saved by General St. John Ligonier, who at the head of three regiments of British cavalry and some squadrons of Imperial horse overthrew the whole of the French cavalry and enabled the army

to effect an orderly retreat to Maestricht. In this battle the regiment had Captain Johnston and one man killed; Captains Fortescue, Izard, and Baldwin, Lieutenants Eyre, Rich, Gregg, Aday, McLaughlan, and Hewett, and 42 privates wounded; and Lieutenant Oakes and 187 men were missing.

THE TREATY OF AIX-LA-CHAPELLE

1748. The regiment was again in the field in the summer of 1748; but hostilities were terminated on the 7th of October by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, by which Great Britain gained nothing save the glory of having supported the sovereignty of Maria Theresa and of adhering to former treaties.

1751. In the Royal Warrant dated 1st of July, 1751, for ensuring uniformity in the clothing, standards, and colours of the Army, and regulating the number and rank of regiments, the following directions are given for the 23rd or Royal Welsh Fusiliers :—

“In the centre of their colours the device of the Prince of Wales, namely, three feathers issuing out of the prince's coronet; in the three corners of the second colour the badges of Edward the Black Prince, namely, the RISING SUN, RED DRAGON, and the THREE FEATHERS in the coronet, with the motto ‘*Ich Dien.*’

"On the Grenadier caps, the THREE FEATHERS as in the colours, the WHITE HORSE and motto '*Nec aspera terrent*' on the flap.

"The same badge of the THREE FEATHERS and motto '*Ich Dien*' on the drums and bells of arms; rank of regiment underneath."



GRENADIER.

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CHAPTER IV

MINORCA

1755. The regiment remained in Great Britain until 1755, when it sailed for Minorca.

1756. The undetermined limits of the British and French territory in North America occasioned a war between the two kingdoms, and early in 1756 the King of France dispatched a powerful force for the capture of the Island of Minorca. The British troops there consisted of four regiments, the 4th (K.O. Royal Lancaster), the 23rd (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), the 24th (South Wales Borderers), and the 34th (the Border Regiment), and a company of artillery, all under the command of the gallant old veteran Governor Blakeney. They mustered not more than 2,460 duty-men, whilst the French attacking force under the Duc de Richelieu amounted to 16,000.

In a few days the French were masters of the whole island with the exception of Fort St. Philip, into which all the troops had withdrawn. The works of the fort were originally

strong, but at this time they were in a ruinous condition. The French batteries opened on the 8th of May. On the 19th of June the fleet of Admiral Byng appeared off the island, but the hopes raised by its appearance were dissipated when it sailed away on the 22nd. The French delivered their grand assault simultaneously on many different points at 10 o'clock on the night of the 27th. The garrison, worn out by seventy days' incessant duty, was unable to repel all the attacks. Several times the assailants were thrown back with heavy loss, but strong in numbers, they returned again and again to the assault, and ultimately effected a lodgment in the Queen's Redoubt and in the Anstruther and Argyle Batteries. The struggle continued from 10 o'clock at night to 4 o'clock on the following morning. The enemy lost 2,000 men, whilst the garrison's loss in killed and wounded was only 47. At a council of war summoned by the Governor it was unanimously agreed that the shattered fort could not sustain another attack. The stout-hearted old Governor then made proposals for a capitulation, which was ratified on the 29th of June.

The Duc de Richelieu replied to General Blakeney's proposals as follows: "The noble and vigorous defence which the English have made has deserved all marks of esteem and veneration that every military person ought

to show to such actions. Marshal Richelieu being desirous to show to General Blakeney the regard due to the brave defence he has made, grants to the garrison all the honours of war that they can enjoy under the circumstances of their going out for an embarkation, to wit—firelocks on their shoulders, drums beating, colours flying, twenty cartridges for each man, and also lighted matches.”

Beatson in his “Naval and Military Memoirs” bears this testimony to the conduct of the garrison of Minorca :—

“Thus did four regiments and one company of artillery maintain the fort against such numbers of the enemy by sea and land for such a length of time, as can perhaps scarcely be paralleled in history. The terms on which the fort was at last surrendered by a handful of men, so shattered and so neglected, remain a lasting monument to their honour.”

The total casualties of the siege were 89 killed, 367 wounded, and 1 missing. Twenty-three died of wounds and 10 of disease.

The loss of the Royal Welsh was 28 killed and 90 wounded, among the latter being Lieutenant Price. Five died of wounds and 2 of disease.

At the commencement of the siege the regiment, which was commanded by General Huske, mustered 1 major, 4 captains, 14 subalterns, 1

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chaplain, 1 adjutant, a surgeon and an assistant-surgeon, 1 quartermaster, 28 sergeants, 27 corporals, 17 drummers, and 616 privates, of whom only 6 were sick.

The garrison embarked on the 12th of July for Gibraltar, whence the regiment proceeded to England and was quartered in the Isle of Wight.

At this period the Army and Navy were increased, and among other augmentations fifteen regiments of infantry were authorized to raise second battalions.

1758. In 1758 these additional battalions were formed into District Corps, and the second battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was constituted the 68th Regiment.

The Royal Welsh took part in the almost futile expedition to Cancale, which approached Havre and Cherbourg and abandoned its design. The regiment returned in July to its quarters in the Isle of Wight.

Soon afterwards the Government deemed it necessary to reinforce the army in Germany, and a brigade, including the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was sent out, and arrived at Halzoone near Embden on the 2nd of August. The brigade effected a junction with the Allied army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick about the middle of August. They had some severe

marching and counter-marching during the remainder of the campaign, but no opportunity of signaling themselves against the enemy before they went into winter quarters at Munster.

MINDEN

1759. Operations commenced early in the spring of 1759, and the Allies gained some advantage; but when the French forces came together they possessed so great a superiority in numbers that Prince Ferdinand was obliged to fall back before the advance of the enemy, until the series of retrograde movements brought his army near Minden, situated on the bank of the River Weser in Westphalia. The French army under Marshal de Contades took possession of Minden and occupied a strong position near that town.

Prince Ferdinand manœuvred; he detached one body of his troops and appeared to leave another exposed to the attack of the entire opposing army. The French commander resolved to destroy this corps, and put his army in motion during the night 31st July–1st August. While the French were on the march the Prince advanced with the Allied army, and the leading column of the enemy on attaining an eminence was surprised at discovering not a few weak corps but the Allied army in order of battle. Thus the French marshal suddenly found him-

self committed to fight upon unfavourable ground.

Six British regiments, the three in the first line being commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Sacheverel Pole, flanked by Hanoverian Foot Guards and the Hardenberg regiment, supported by three regiments of Hanoverians and a battalion of Hessian Guards, faced the élite of the French cavalry. The 12th, 23rd, and 37th British regiments followed by the 20th, 25th and 51st led the attack. The French Carabineers advanced to charge them. A heavy fire was poured upon them by the French batteries. A rolling volley from the British infantry smote the hostile squadrons, and the survivors wheeled about and galloped to the rear, their artillery recommencing their fire as the cavalry withdrew. Soon another line of French horsemen, gay in splendid uniforms and formidable in numbers, came forward; but they in their turn were struck in mid-onset by a tempest of bullets, broken, and driven back with severe loss.

Still pressing forward, the three infantry brigades became exposed to a flank fire from the enemy's infantry; but nothing could stop them, they followed up their advantage, routed the whole of the French cavalry and drove it from the field. Two brigades of French infantry which endeavoured to stem the torrent of the attack

were quickly broken and dispersed. Marshal de Contades afterwards wrote: "I have seen what I never thought to be possible; a single line of infantry break through three lines of cavalry ranked in order of battle and tumble them into ruin."

The refusal of Lord George Sackville to bring the British and Hanoverian cavalry into action rendered the victory less complete than it otherwise would have been. As it was, the French army fled in disorder, leaving behind 43 pieces of cannon, 10 stand of colours, and 7 standards.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers lost 4 sergeants and 31 rank and file killed; Lieutenant-Colonel Pole, Captains Fowler and Fox, Captain-Lieutenant Bolton, Lieutenants Reynell, Patterson, Barber, Grey, Grove, and Orpin, Second-Lieutenant Ferguson, 6 sergeants, 3 drummers, and 153 rank and file, wounded; and 10 men were missing.

The distinguished conduct of the regiment on this occasion was afterwards honoured by the King's authority to bear the word "Minden" on its colour and appointments.

The Allies followed the retreating enemy with great energy, ascending precipices, passing morasses, overcoming numerous difficulties, nearly annihilating several French corps, and capturing many prisoners, with a great quantity of baggage. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers shared

in these hazards, toils, and conflicts, and when the weather became too severe went into cantonments in Osnaburg in Westphalia.

WARBOURG. WESEL

1760. The regiment was joined on the 12th of May, 1760, by a large body of recruits from home to replace its losses. It took part in numerous operations. Its Grenadier company being in advance was sharply engaged at Warbourg, losing 1 sergeant and 11 privates, killed; Captain Rainey, Lieutenant Mercer, and 19 privates, wounded.

It formed part of the force which on the 16th of October attacked the French army advancing to raise the siege of Wesel, losing on that occasion 2 sergeants and 19 privates, killed; Major Marlay, Captains Gould and Fowler, Lieutenants Ferguson, Grove, Orpin, Blakeney, and Meccan, 4 sergeants, and 97 privates, wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Pole, Captains Gould and Fowler, with 44 rank and file, were taken prisoners.

When the siege of Wesel was abandoned, the regiment repassed the Rhine and was cantoned in the principality of Hesse.

1761. On the 16th of January, 1761, Lieutenant-General the Hon. George Boscawen was transferred from the 29th Regiment to the

colonelcy of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in succession to General John Huske, deceased.

In the following month the regiment, advancing through deep snow, took part in the capture of several strong towns, and then returned to its former quarters.

It took the field again in June, and after several harassing marches the British regiments were stationed in front of the village of Kirch Denkern, near to Fellinghausen, where a French attack was repulsed on the 15th of July, and after five hours' sharp fighting on the next day the enemy was completely routed. The regiment remained near Kirch Denkern until the 27th of July, and was subsequently employed in manœuvring and skirmishing in various parts of the Bishopric of Paderborn, in Hesse, and in Hanover. It passed the winter in Osnaburg.

1762. The regiment quitted its cantonments in the spring of 1762, and on the 24th of June was engaged in the surprise of the French camp at Graebenstein.

THE TREATY OF PARIS

In the beginning of November the Allies took Cassel, after which a suspension of hostilities was proclaimed, the preliminary articles of peace having been signed at Fontainebleau on the 3rd of November. This treaty was concluded at Paris in the following year.

By this treaty the whole of Canada, part of Louisiana, together with Cape Breton and the other islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, were ceded to Great Britain. In the West Indies the islands of Tobago, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Grenada were retained by Great Britain; but Martinique, Guadaloupe, Marigalante, and St. Lucia were restored to France. The French obtained restitution of their settlements in the East Indies. Minorca was restored to Britain in exchange for Belleisle. Spain ceded Florida to Great Britain in return for Cuba, the Philippines, and all the places Spain had lost since the commencement of the war.

The regiment, which then consisted of 29 officers and 689 other ranks, returned to England in February 1763, and passed the next ten years at home.

CHAPTER V

NORTH AMERICA

1773. In the summer of 1773 the Royal Welsh Fusiliers embarked at Plymouth for North America, and arrived at New York on the 14th of June.

1774. In 1774 the regiment was removed to Boston, where, owing to an anticipated outbreak by the American Colonists, a strong military force had been assembled under the command of General Gage.

LEXINGTON

1775. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were engaged in the first hostile collision between the Royal troops and the Colonists. A detachment consisting of the flank companies of the British regiments, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Smith of the 10th Regiment, proceeded to destroy a considerable depôt of military stores at Concord, about 20 miles from Boston. These troops were soon warned by the ringing of bells, firing of guns, etc., that the

country-side was aroused, and on arriving at Lexington, about 15 miles from Boston, they found a considerable body of Colonists under arms. Some shots were exchanged, and a few casualties resulted. The detachment marched on to Concord, where a strong party of Colonial Militia was posted on an eminence at the entrance to the town. These were attacked and dispersed, and the Grenadiers destroyed the stores.

An immense crowd opposed the return of the detachment to Boston, keeping up a galling fire on its front, flanks, and rear, from behind houses, hedges, and walls. Thus harassed, the detachment reached Lexington, where it met another detachment sent to its support, consisting of the remaining eight companies of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and the same number of the 8th Regiment. These formed a square, under the protection of which the wearied soldiers of Colonel Smith's force took rest and refreshment. The column then resumed its march and reached Boston at sunset.

The British troops numbered in all about 1,800 men, of whom 71 were killed, 136 wounded, and 49 missing. The loss of the Americans, as stated by themselves, was about 60, of whom 40 were killed.

The regiment lost 4 men killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard and 26 men wounded.

On the 11th of May, 1775, Major-General the Hon. Sir William Howe, K.B. (from the 46th Regiment), was appointed colonel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in succession to Lieutenant-General the Hon. George Boscawen, deceased.

BUNKER'S HILL

The forces of the Colonists increased rapidly, and they formed an encampment, 30 miles in extent, entirely surrounding Boston. Major-General Howe arrived at Boston in June with reinforcements for the British troops.

Separated from the peninsula of Boston by the River Charles is the peninsula of Charlestown, in the centre of which rises an eminence called Bunker's Hill. This hill was taken possession of and strongly entrenched by a numerous body of the Americans on the 16th of June. About noon of the following day some 2,000 British troops advanced against it under cover of artillery. The Americans reserved their fire until the near approach of their assailants, and then poured a devastating fire, under which the troops recoiled; but they again mounted to the assault and impetuously forced their way over the entrenchments, driving the Colonists from them at the point of the bayonet into a precipitate flight.

The British casualties amounted to 226 killed and 828 wounded; among the former were 19

officers, and among the latter 70. The loss of the Americans, estimated by themselves, was 146 killed and 304 wounded.

No separate return has been preserved of the casualties of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers generally; but the Grenadier company went into the action with 3 officers and 46 rank and file, and returned with only 5 effectives; the rest were all killed or wounded.¹

The regimental goat went with the regiment into this action.

1776. After the battle of Bunker's Hill nothing of importance was attempted on either side until early in 1776, when General Washington began to carry on his operations with greater vigour. Provisions became scarce in Boston, and the soldiers were worn out with incessant toil. On the 2nd of March two American batteries opened fire with effect upon

¹ Fenimore Cooper, in his work entitled "Lionel Lincoln," after describing the battle of Bunker's Hill, states: "The Welsh Fusiliers had hardly men enough left to saddle their goat," and adds that "the corps was distinguished alike for its courage and its losses."

Mrs. John Adams, in a letter to her husband (who became the second President of the United States), alludes to the battle in these terms: "But in the midst of sorrow we have abundant cause for thankfulness that so few of our brethren are numbered with the slain, while our enemies were cut down like grass before the scythe. But one officer of the Welsh Fusiliers remains to tell the story."

the town, and Sir William Howe, who had succeeded to the command, decided upon a withdrawal. Accordingly the garrison and the loyal inhabitants were embarked and conveyed to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The troops having recovered, Sir William Howe sailed for Staten Island, near New York, where he landed on the 2nd of July, and was joined by considerable reinforcements from England. On the 4th of that month the American Congress issued their Declaration of Independence, abjuring their allegiance to the Crown of Great Britain.

Shortly afterwards another body of Royal troops arrived from the Southern provinces under the command of Major-General Sir Henry Clinton, and on the 22nd of August the army crossed over to Long Island. The Colonists abandoned their lines near Brooklyn, and in September the British took possession of New York. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers assisted in the series of movements and skirmishes which followed, and which terminated in clearing the Americans out of New York Island after the battle of White Plains on the 28th of October, and the surrender of Fort Washington on the 16th of November. The regiment went into winter quarters on New York Island.

1777. On the 12th of April, 1777, the regiment embarked with the troops under Major-

General Tryon, and landed at Norwalk Bay, Connecticut, whence it marched about 20 miles to Danbury, and there destroyed magazines of warlike stores. Next day the troops marched to Ridgefield, where the Royal Welsh Fusiliers had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, being attacked by very superior numbers stationed to protect large magazines of stores, which were burnt after the Americans had been defeated and dispersed. The regiment was constantly attacked night and day by a superior force on its way to the sea, and it successfully defeated a vigorous attack made by General Arnold whilst the embarkation of the rear-guard was proceeding. In this expedition the regiment had 5 rank and file killed, and Second-Lieutenant Edward Price, 1 sergeant, and 18 men wounded.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers received the particular thanks of Brigadier-General Erskine and of the other general officers for their gallant conduct on this and every other occasion since they disembarked. The regiment returned to New York. It moved with the army to Staten Island, and subsequently to New Jersey, returning to New York on the 24th of June.

Having failed to penetrate to Philadelphia through the Jerseys, Sir William Howe decided to reach that place by sailing up the Delaware.

The troops, including the Royal Welsh

Fusiliers, arrived on the 30th of July off the Capes of the Delaware. Here the commander-in-chief, finding that the navigation of the river had been rendered dangerous by the enemy, proceeded to the Chesapeake, and on the 25th of August the army disembarked at Elk Ferry in Pennsylvania.

BRANDYWINE

The army marched for Philadelphia, the enemy retiring and taking up a position on the opposite side of the Brandywine. On the 11th of September, after a sharp contest, the Americans, after a second stand in the woods, were completely routed. They lost 300 killed, 600 wounded, and 400 were taken prisoners. The British loss was 100 killed and 300 wounded, among the latter being Captain Mekan of the 23rd.

On the 26th of September Sir William Howe advanced to Germantown, and on the 27th Earl Cornwallis took possession of Philadelphia. Whilst large detachments were engaged in clearing the obstructions in the Delaware so as to free the way to the fleet, the depleted troops at Germantown were attacked, but aided by a fog they repulsed their assailants.

The regiment passed the winter in Philadelphia, and shared some severe duty in the destruction of the forts on the Delaware.

1778. In the spring of 1778 Sir William Howe returned to England, and the command of the army devolved upon Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, who decided on evacuating Philadelphia and returning to New York.

MONMOUTH COURT HOUSE

General Washington collected all the men that could be brought together to harass and obstruct the British on their march towards New York. After various movements on both sides, Sir Henry Clinton arrived on the 27th of June at a place called Freehold, where, judging from the number of the enemy that a serious attack was meditated, he encamped for the night in a very strong position. In the morning he dispatched a vast quantity of baggage under escort of a division, himself following at some distance with the rest of the troops. When near Monmouth Court House a greatly superior body of Americans made its appearance under Generals Lee and the Marquis Lafayette. Ere the British dispositions for attacking were completed, the enemy retired to a rising ground in the rear. Sir Henry Clinton, desiring to compel the enemy to recall parties advancing on both sides of his army in pursuit of the baggage, resolved to engage. Notwithstanding the exhausted condition of the men from the great heat, the attack was made with such vigour that the Provincials

were forced to give way, and were only saved from a total rout by the arrival of General Washington with the main body of his army.

The right flank company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers received the warmest thanks of Brigadier-General Sir William Medows, who commanded the Grenadier brigade. That company had a third of its officers and men killed or wounded.

After this affair the army continued its march unmolested to Sandy Hook, and reached New York on the 5th of July.

THE WELSH FUSILIERS SERVE AS MARINES

A powerful French fleet arrived off the harbour of New York. The British admiral, Lord Howe, though inferior in force, prepared to meet them, and they withdrew to Rhode Island, whither Lord Howe resolved to pursue them. On this occasion the 52nd Regiment was ordered to serve on board the fleet as marines ; but the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, desirous of paying a compliment to the brother of their colonel, volunteered their services, which were accepted, and the regiment embarked on the 2nd of August.

No general engagement took place between the fleets ; but notwithstanding a complete dispersal of both fleets by a furious tempest, some spirited attacks were made by individual ships, which engaged enemy vessels of heavier arma-

ment and drove off some of them in a damaged condition.

The regiment disembarked at New York on the 4th of September, when Admiral Lord Howe was pleased "to present his most particular thanks to the officers and soldiers of the three companies of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers for their spirited and gallant behaviour on board the ships that had engaged the enemy, and to the whole regiment for its conduct during the time it served on board the fleet."

1779. On the 27th of May, 1779, the regiment, with a part of the army, sailed up the Hudson. It assisted at the taking of Fort Lafayette and other fortified places. Soon after it joined another expedition, under Major-General Tryon, to Newhaven, a great rendezvous for American privateers. The troops landed, and having demolished the batteries destroyed several ships and a vast quantity of naval stores. They also destroyed the stores and burnt the town of Fairfield. Norfolk and Greenfield shared the same fate.

The regiment then returned to New York, having during an absence of not more than nine days occasioned most serious loss to the Americans.

On the 20th of September the regiment embarked with a strong detachment of the army

under Lieutenant-General the Earl of Cornwallis, and sailed with the intention of invading the whole of the French West India Islands; but having learnt from a British frigate that a greatly superior French fleet was within a few days' sail, the expedition returned to New York.

CHARLESTOWN

Towards the end of the year the commander-in-chief, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Clinton, embarked with a great part of the army, which included the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and sailed for Charlestown in South Carolina.

1780. After a tedious and tempestuous voyage, during which some of the transports were lost, the troops on the 12th of February, 1780, landed at North Ediston, on St. John's Island, about 30 miles from Charlestown. On the 10th of April Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot summoned the town to surrender. The governor, General Lincoln, however, declared his determination to defend the place to the last extremity. He had been expecting supplies and reinforcements, but these were intercepted. A considerable body of militia and cavalry, sent to relieve the besieged, was totally routed and the investment of the town completed. The second and third parallels having been finished, a second summons was

sent, but it was answered by proposals deemed inadmissible.

The British batteries opened on the town, and preparations for an assault were in progress, when the terrified inhabitants petitioned General Lincoln to accept the proffered conditions. A flag of truce was sent out, and on the 11th of May articles of capitulation were agreed to. Great quantities of ordnance and military stores were taken in Charlestown, and several French and American ships were captured and destroyed. The loss of the British during the siege was 76 killed and 189 wounded.

Shortly afterwards Sir Henry Clinton returned to New York, leaving the Earl of Cornwallis in South Carolina with 4,000 men, including the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

CAMDEN

The Americans, however, were not disposed to leave the British in quiet possession of South Carolina. The American General Gates entered the province in July 1780. The British outposts were called in and united at Camden. Each of the opposing armies by a coincidence marched out at midnight of the 15th of August to effect a surprise attack, and the advanced guards met about 3 a.m. on the 16th. The ground on which they had accidentally met was

a small sandy plain with some straggling trees ; whilst some swampy ground on the flanks of the British narrowed the field of action, and neutralized the numerical superiority of the Americans.

The right division of the first line of the British was composed of a small corps of light infantry, and the 23rd and 33rd Regiments, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Webster of the 33rd. Lord Cornwallis directed Colonel Webster to begin the attack. The enemy's left, composed of Virginia militia, soon gave way, leaving that flank of their army uncovered ; on this the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the light infantry, instead of pursuing the fugitives, wheeled up, and falling on the exposed flank, materially contributed to the success of the day. After an obstinate resistance of three-quarters of an hour the Americans were forced to fly from the field in utmost confusion. The cavalry pursued and made about 1,000 prisoners. The British force did not exceed 2,000, of whom only 1,500 were regulars. The Americans were computed to number about 6,000, of whom 800 or 900 were killed or wounded. The loss of the British was 213. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers had 6 men killed, Captain James Drury and 17 men wounded.

Earl Cornwallis set out on the 8th of September to reduce the province of North Carolina. As the army had to depend for its subsistence

entirely on the country through which it marched, several mills in the neighbourhood of Charlotte were occupied. At one of these (Polk's Mill) a small detachment was posted under the command of Lieutenant Guyon of the Royal Welsh, a very young man. A strong American force attacked this mill, but was repulsed, and Lieutenant Guyon's conduct was highly commended.

Owing to the defeat and destruction of a British force under Major Ferguson, the western frontiers of South Carolina became exposed to the incursions of the enemy, and Earl Cornwallis returned to protect the loyal inhabitants of that province. His army suffered much privation on this return march, being frequently two days without sufficient sustenance. For five days they were supported on Indian corn collected as it stood in the fields. Five ears was the allowance for two soldiers for twenty-four hours. At this period, and for some months after, the army was without tents, bivouacking in the woods often under torrents of rain, the soldier sinking at each step over his shoes in mud. Earl Cornwallis halted at Wynesborough to await reinforcements from New York, with whose assistance he hoped to resume his operations in North Carolina.

1781. The British cause in North America suffered a severe blow on the 17th of January, 1781, by the defeat of the force under Lieutenant-

Colonel Tarleton at Cowpens. Lord Cornwallis, hoping to retrieve the disaster by recovering the numerous British prisoners taken on that occasion, commenced a vigorous pursuit of General Morgan, by whom the blow had been struck. To expedite the pursuit all superfluous baggage was destroyed, the soldiers destroying even the spirits without a murmur, and without any recompense for the deprivation. The troops had to ford one or more rivers or creeks daily or nightly. They reached the Fords of Catawba on the 29th of January, only two hours after General Morgan had passed.

On the 1st of February, the river having become fordable, the column entered the water, which was 500 yards in width and in depth reached the men's waists. As they arrived in mid-stream the enemy's piquets commenced firing. The current was so strong that officers and men clung to one another to avoid being carried down the river: the bottom was rocky and uneven, and the enemy kept firing from the opposite bank all the time the troops were crossing. Yet they made good their landing and promptly attacked and dispersed their opponents. Captain James of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was wounded.

The Americans were driven from North Carolina. Earl Cornwallis hoisted the Royal Standard at Hillsborough, and invited the people

to join him. Provisions, however, became scarce in the neighbourhood; a retrograde movement was made, and the enemy re-entered the province.

GUILDFORD COURT HOUSE

The American General Greene, having been strongly reinforced, made a stand at Guildford Court House. Sir Thomas Saumarez, an officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, has left this record of the part taken by the regiment in the action which ensued: "About 1 o'clock the action commenced. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers had to attack the enemy in front under every disadvantage, having to march over a lately ploughed field which was wet and muddy from the rains which had recently fallen. The enemy, greatly superior in numbers, were most advantageously posted on a rising ground and behind rails. The regiment marched to the attack under a most galling and destructive fire, which it could only return by an occasional volley. No troops could behave better than the regiment and the little army did at this period, as they never returned the enemy's fire but on word of command, and marched on with the most undaunted courage. When at length they got within a few yards of the Americans' first line, they gave a volley and charged with such impetuosity as to cause their foes to retreat; which they did to the

right and left flanks, leaving the front of the British troops exposed to the fire of a second line of the enemy which was formed behind brushwood. They then attacked the enemy with the bayonet in so cool and deliberate a manner as to throw the Americans into the greatest confusion and disperse them. After this, the Royal Welsh attacked and captured two brass 6-pounders, having assisted in the attack and defeat of the third line and reserve of the Americans. Such men of the Fusiliers and 71st as had strength remaining, were ordered to pursue the dispersed enemy. This they did in so persevering a manner that they killed or wounded as many as they could overtake, until, being completely exhausted, they were obliged to halt, afterwards returning as they could to rejoin the army at Guildford Court House.

“This action,” he continues, “was unquestionably the hardest and best contested, fought during the American War. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers had about one-third of the officers killed or wounded.”

Earl Cornwallis, in his official account of the battle, thus characterizes his troops: “The conduct and actions of the officers and soldiers that compose this little army will do more justice to their minds than I can by words. Their persevering intrepidity in action, their invincible patience under the hardships and fatigues of a

march of above 600 miles, in which they have forded several large rivers and numberless creeks, many of which would be considered large rivers in any other country in the world, without tents or covering from the climate and often without provisions, will sufficiently manifest their ardent zeal for the honour and interests of their Sovereign and their country."

The victory at Guildford was gained by 1,447 over an army computed at 7,000—the total loss of the victors was 93 killed and 413 wounded.

This brilliant and dearly purchased success led to no beneficial results; the army could not be subsisted in that part of the country, and Earl Cornwallis was under the necessity of retiring into Wilmington. General Greene now penetrated into South Carolina, and with the view of drawing him off, Lord Cornwallis marched into Virginia. At Petersburg General Greene was joined by a detachment from New York under General Arnold, and they proceeded to Richmond and Williamsburgh, destroying everywhere vast quantities of tobacco and other produce.

At this period seventy men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under the command of Captain Forbes-Champagné, were mounted and detached with Colonel Tarleton to surprise the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, which was

sitting at Charlotteville. This novel service they performed very efficiently, for they charged through a river into the town, made prisoners of seven members of the Assembly, and destroyed a thousand stand of arms and a great quantity of gunpowder, tobacco, etc.

While at Williamsburgh Earl Cornwallis was instructed to detach a considerable portion of his force to New York, where Sir Henry Clinton expected to be attacked by General Washington. The entire force was marched to Portsmouth. It was attacked on its way, but gave the enemy so warm a reception that night alone saved him from total destruction. As it was the Americans lost 300 in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

YORK TOWN

It soon became evident that General Washington's preparations were in reality directed against the army in Virginia and not New York, and Earl Cornwallis' situation became most hazardous. General Washington with 8,000 good American troops, and the Count de Rochambeau with an equal number of French, were rapidly approaching to surround the British by land, while the French fleet was preparing to blockade them by sea.

His Lordship selected York Town as the best post for at once securing his own troops

and the ships by which he was attended. The army arrived at York Town in August, and immediately commenced fortifying the place. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were directed to construct a redoubt on the right flank and in advance of a ravine between it and the town, and this post was entrusted to them and some Marines to defend.

The combined French and American army made its appearance on the 28th of September, and Earl Cornwallis, having the same evening received assurance of speedy succour from Sir Henry Clinton, withdrew his troops from the outer works, which were occupied on the following day by the enemy and the place completely invested. On the 6th of October the enemy opened his first parallel, and on the 9th his batteries commenced firing on the British left ; other batteries fired at the same time on the redoubt, defended by 120 men of the Welsh Fusiliers and Marines, who, it is stated in the official dispatch, maintained that post with uncommon gallantry. Soon after, a vigorous attempt to storm the advanced redoubt was made by 3,000 French Grenadiers, all volunteers, but it was repulsed by the small detachment of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and forty Marines ; two other unsuccessful attempts were also made by the French to storm the redoubt.

As the half-ruined works of the town could

not stand many hours against the fire of the second parallel established by the enemy, a sortie was made on the 16th of October by a party of 350 men, who forced their way into two of the batteries, spiked the guns, and killed about 100 of the enemy. This success was, however, of little avail. Not a gun could be shown on the works of the town, and the shells were nearly expended. No alternative remained but to surrender or attempt a retirement by the Gloucester side of the river. The latter alternative was attempted, but owing to a sudden storm the design, which had been partly carried out, was frustrated and the garrison returned. The enemy's batteries opened at daybreak; the defences were crumbling to ruins, and were already assailable at more than one point. In these circumstances Earl Cornwallis, on the 17th of October, made proposals for the capitulation, and the Articles were signed on the 19th. So terminated the services of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the American War.

Earl Cornwallis, in his official account of the siege, observed that "the detachment of the 23rd Regiment and Marines in the redoubt of the right, commanded by Captain Althorpe (of the 23rd), and the other detachments commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Johnstone deserve particular commendation."

Even the French general officers, after the termination of the siege, gave the Royal Welsh Fusiliers their unqualified approbation and praise for their intrepidity and firmness in repulsing three assaults on the redoubt made by such vastly superior numbers, and could not easily believe that so few men had defended it.

The French and American troops, including Militia, numbered about 20,000, and the British mustered, on the day previous to the surrender, 5,950 rank and file, of whom only 4,017 were reported fit for duty. Lieutenants Mair and Guyon, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, were killed during the siege. The officers were allowed to proceed to Europe on parole and to retain their private property. The colours of the regiment were saved by Captain Peter and another officer wrapping them round their bodies.

On the 29th of October, 1781, Captain Saumarez, who was in charge of the regiment during its captivity, marched off with half the garrison, and arrived on the 15th of November at Winchester in the back settlements of Virginia, where the prisoners were confined in barracks surrounded by a stockade.

1782. The regiment was transferred on the 12th of January, 1782, from Winchester, Virginia, to Lancaster in Pennsylvania.

PEACE WITH AMERICA

Preliminary Articles of Peace were signed at Paris on the 30th of November, 1782, by the Commissioners of Great Britain and those of the American Congress.

1783. On the 20th of January, 1783, preliminary treaties between Great Britain, France, and Spain were signed at Versailles.

CHAPTER VI

1784. The regiment had quitted Lancaster in May 1783 and joined the British army in Staten Island; and in January 1784 it embarked for England and was stationed in the United Kingdom during the ten following years.

1786. On the 21st of April, 1786, Major-General Richard Grenville was appointed colonel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in succession to Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir William Howe, who had become colonel of the 19th (late 23rd) Light Dragoons.

1789. In 1789 the regiment was employed on King's Duty at Windsor. During this year the Revolution broke out in France which ultimately involved Great Britain in a war of upwards of twenty years' duration.

1793. Louis XVI of France was decapitated on the 21st of January, 1793, and in the following month the National Convention declared war against Great Britain and Holland. The British Government caused a large army to be sent, under the command of the Duke of York, to join

the Austrian and Prussian Allies and several engagements took place, but the French gained possession of the Austrian Netherlands. Holland opened her principal towns to the enemy, and they were garrisoned by French troops. Republican principles became prevalent also in the French West India Islands, and the settlers of St. Domingo solicited protection from Great Britain against the feared violence of the coloured population.

ST. DOMINGO

1794. The regiment embarked for St. Domingo in 1794, where it assisted at the taking of Port-au-Prince. It suffered so severely from the climate that it returned to England a perfect skeleton in 1796, and was stationed at Chatham.

HOLLAND

1798. In 1798 the regiment formed part of a force under Major-General Coote, sent out to destroy sluices and works in the canal of Ostend. Two companies only of the regiment landed on this service; they were made prisoners of war in common with the rest of the troops and were marched to Lisle. They were soon after exchanged and joined the headquarters of the regiment in Guernsey.

1799. The regiment embarked in August 1799 for Holland with the army under Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby. On the

27th of August the Reserve, composed of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the 55th, were the first to reach the shore, where they directly got into action with a considerable body of Dutch infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The enemy was soon driven from the nearest sandhills, and after a contest which lasted from 5 a.m. till 3 p.m. he was compelled to retire. The regiment lost 18 rank and file killed, and Captains Bury, Ellis, and the Hon. Godfrey McDonald, 5 sergeants, and 69 men wounded.

For some days the troops remained on the sandhills, in trenches which they dug for themselves in the sand.

On the 19th of September the allied British and Russians commenced offensive operations; but the right column, composed of Russians, were surrounded in the village of Bergen and ultimately repulsed with considerable loss. In consequence of this misfortune the whole of the troops were recalled to the position from which they had marched in the morning. On the 2nd of October the Allies gained the hard-fought battle of Alkmaar, in which the Royal Welsh Fusiliers lost 7 killed, and Lieutenants McLean and Keith, 1 sergeant, 3 drummers, and 49 men wounded. The regiment had also a loss of 6 men killed, 1 sergeant and 33 men wounded, in an action near Wych-op-Zee on the 6th of October.

On the 18th of October an agreement was come to with the French general for the withdrawal of the British and Russian troops from Holland.

THREE COMPANIES SHIPWRECKED

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers marched to the Helder, and on the 29th of October embarked on some Dutch canal-boats to be conveyed to the British battleships waiting for them about 15 miles off. The wind dying away they were unable to proceed, and were ordered on board some Dutch frigates. It was the fate of Lieutenants Hill, Hanson, Viscer, McLean, and Hoggard, with the Grenadier and two other companies amounting to 262 men and 25 women and children, to embark on the *Valk*, which met contrary and stormy winds, and beat about for several days until the 10th of November, when she struck on a sandbank within 6 miles of Dutch coast and was broken up among the breakers. The masts went overboard carrying with them numbers of people who had crowded into the rigging. Lieutenant Hill succeeded in fastening himself with his braces to a fragment of the wreck, on which he at length reached the shore, where he found that of the 446 souls that had sailed in the *Valk* only 25 survived—himself, 19 men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and 5 Dutch sailors. He hired a fishing-boat, in which he and his companions were conveyed

to the Helder, whence they returned to England in the *Success* frigate.

The regiment was now reduced by shipwreck and the casualties of the campaign from 1,000 to about 400 men. Drafts were received from the Irish Militia and a few recruits were raised in England, but the supplies did not suffice to bring the regiment up to its former establishment.

1800. In June 1800 the regiment embarked at Plymouth in three frigates and joined the Channel Fleet under Earl St. Vincent, disembarked on the coast of France, re-embarked and joined the army under Lieutenant-General Sir James Pulteney in the unsuccessful attempts on Ferrol and Vigo in August.

EGYPT

It then proceeded to Cadiz Bay and joined the army there under Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby. The troops were prevented from landing owing to an epidemic fever raging in the city, and it was resolved to employ them in an expedition to Egypt. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers sailed to Malta, and afterwards went to Marmorice Bay in Asia Minor, where they encamped.

1801. Leaving that bay they arrived in Aboukir Bay on the 2nd of March, 1801. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers formed part of the reserve with the flank companies of the 40th, 28th, 42nd,

and 58th Regiments, the Corsican Rangers, and detachments of the 11th Dragoons and of Hompesch's regiment, all under the command of Major-General (afterwards Lieutenant-General) Sir John Moore.

The troops landed on the 8th of March at several points and assembled at the place of rendezvous at 9 a.m. At a given signal they all sprang forward. The French, who numbered 2,000, were drawn up on the summit of the sandhills, which in parts were 60 feet high and apparently inaccessible. They opened such a tremendous fire from their artillery and small arms that it seemed as if nothing could live in it. Sir Robert Wilson wrote: "The reserve jumped on shore and formed as they advanced; the 23rd and the 40th rushed up the heights with almost preternatural energy, never firing a shot, but charging with the bayonet the two battalions which crowned them, breaking and pursuing them until they carried the two Mole Hills in the rear which commanded the plain to the left, taking at the same time three pieces of cannon." The Guards and the First Brigade were no less successful, and the British were left in full possession of the heights and eight pieces of cannon. The loss of the regiment was 6 rank and file killed, and Captains Ellis, Lloyd, and Pearson, 1 sergeant, and 37 rank and file wounded.

After a brush with the enemy on the 13th of March the British force compelled the French to take refuge under the fortified heights of Alexandria. Just before daybreak on the 21st of March the French, to the number of 12,000, advanced to the attack. The contest was unusually obstinate; the enemy was twice repulsed, and his cavalry was repeatedly mixed with the British infantry. He at length retired, leaving a "prodigious" number of dead and wounded on the field.

According to Major-General Hutchinson's dispatch, "the reserve against whom the principal attack of the enemy was directed conducted themselves with unexampled spirit; they resisted the impetuosity of the French infantry and repulsed several charges of cavalry." In the General Order issued on the occasion it is stated "To Major-General Moore, Brigadier-General Oakes, and the reserve no acknowledgments are sufficient."

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers had 5 men killed, and Second-Lieutenant Cooke, 2 sergeants, and 12 men wounded.

In this battle the nation sustained the loss of the gallant Sir Ralph Abercromby. Major-General Hutchinson, on whom the command devolved, marched against Cairo with the main body of the army. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers remained with Major-General Coote before

Alexandria, and assisted in the operations which terminated in its capitulation on the 2nd of September. In his dispatch of the 5th of September Major-General Hutchinson states : "The conduct of the troops of every description has been exemplary in the highest degree ; there has been much to applaud and nothing to reprehend. Their order and regularity in the camp have been as conspicuous as their courage in the field."

The regiment embarked in November for Gibraltar.

For their conduct on this service the troops received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and His Majesty was graciously pleased to permit each regiment engaged to bear on its colour and appointments the SPHINX, with the word "Egypt." Every officer was presented with a gold medal by the Grand Seignior.

THE PEACE OF AMIENS

1802. A definitive treaty of peace was signed at Amiens on the 27th of March, 1802. One feature of the treaty was the cession to Great Britain of Trinidad and Ceylon.

CHAPTER VII

THREATENED INVASION OF ENGLAND

1803. Napoleon Bonaparte occasioned hostilities to be resumed in 1803. The British Army was augmented and preparations made to repel a threatened invasion of England by the French. In August of this year the regiment returned home from Gibraltar and was quartered in the southern counties for the next two years.

1804. A SECOND BATTALION was added to the regiment in 1804. It was formed of men raised in Wales for limited service under the Additional Force Act, and placed on the Establishment of the Army from the 25th of December. This battalion was embodied at Chester, where it remained until it was completed and rendered fit for service.

BREMEN

1805. The FIRST BATTALION left England in October 1805, and early in November was

cantoned about a day's march from Bremen. The army, now commanded by Lieutenant-General Lord Cathcart, occupied Bremen till the French victory at Austerlitz so changed the aspect of affairs in Europe that the British troops were called home in February 1806.

COPENHAGEN

1806. The next service in which the **FIRST BATTALION** was engaged was the expedition to Copenhagen under Lord Cathcart. It lost five or six men in the skirmish during the advance of the army towards the Danish capital. It also suffered a few casualties in skirmishes between piquets during the bombardment. On the 7th of September Articles of Capitulation were signed.

The fire of the Danish gunboats greatly annoyed the besiegers, and (so it is recorded) Lieutenant Jennings and two men were killed on the 4th of September by a cannon-ball which also wounded two other men of the battalion, and killed two of the 4th King's Own Regiment.

1807. On the 6th of November, 1807, the **FIRST BATTALION** landed at Deal after a stormy voyage, marched to Colchester, soon after proceeding to Portsmouth. On the 23rd of November, 1807, the **SECOND BATTALION** embarked at Portsmouth for Ireland.

CANADA

1808. The FIRST BATTALION left England in February 1808 for Halifax, Nova Scotia, where it arrived on the 16th of April, and detachments therefrom were quartered in various places in Canada.

CORUNNA

In the summer of 1808 the SECOND BATTALION formed part of a considerable body of troops encamped on the Curragh of Kildare to be trained by Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird. The battalion accompanied Sir David Baird's force in the autumn to join Sir John Moore's army in Spain, and shared in all the hardships of the disastrous retreat from Sahagun.

1809. In the battle at Corunna, on the 16th of January, 1809, the SECOND BATTALION was in Major-General Beresford's brigade, which was in reserve and formed the rear-guard when the army embarked on the 17th, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers being the *last* battalion to quit the Spanish shore.¹

¹ The following account of the Keys of Corunna was communicated by Miss Fletcher:—

"The rear-guard was commanded by Captain Thomas Lloyd Fletcher of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He, with his corporal, were the last to leave the town. On their way to embark and as they passed through the gates Captain Fletcher turned and locked them. The key not turning easily, they thrust in a bayonet, and between them managed

For their services in this campaign the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were permitted to bear the word "Corunna" on the regimental colour and appointments.

WALCHEREN

The SECOND BATTALION returned with the army to England, and afterwards joined the expedition to the Island of Walcheren. On this service it suffered so severely from the pestilential climate that it returned to England "almost a skeleton."

MARTINIQUE

1808. The FIRST BATTALION was selected, with the 7th Royal Fusiliers and other regiments, to take part in an expedition against the French island of Martinique. The battalion left Nova Scotia in December 1808 for Barbados.

1809. It sailed for Martinique on the 28th of January, 1809, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith.

The following interesting account of the taking of Martinique is given in the "Letters

it. Captain Fletcher brought away the keys, and they are now [1889] in possession of his son, Phillip Lloyd Fletcher of Nerquis Hall, Co. Flint. The keys are held together by a ring, from which is suspended a steel plate with the inscription '*Portigo de puerta de abigo*' (The keys of the lower postern). One key still shows the wrench of the bayonet."

and Journals" of Lieutenant (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel) Harrison :—

"On the 1st of February the Royal Fusiliers and the light companies of the brigade which were in advance drove a body of the enemy from Morne Bruno to the heights of Sourier. Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, who was advancing in support with the Grenadiers of the Royal Welsh, now ascended the heights and drove the enemy across them, and down a narrow road between two sugar plantations, at the mouth of which the Grenadiers took post. Here they were soon assailed by a superior force, which they ultimately repulsed. The contest was, however, most obstinate, the French repeatedly returning to the attack with drums beating. The Grenadiers, however, maintained their ground, though with the loss of twenty-six of their number killed and wounded.

"The remainder of the battalion now came up, and a sharp action took place which terminated in the retreat of the French, and in which the Royal Welsh Fusiliers had upwards of one hundred men killed and wounded. A most important position was now gained, from which all the subsequent operations against Fort Bourbon were directed. On the following morning two redoubts were discovered in front, and in advance of them a body of the enemy's infantry. The redoubts opened fire, and a few

men of the brigade were killed or wounded. Parties from each regiment were now ordered forward; they attacked and drove the enemy into the forts, but were ultimately obliged to retire, covered by the Grenadiers, and Captain Keith's company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Sir George Beckwith now came up and asked Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis whether he thought he could trust his Grenadiers to storm the forts. 'Sir,' replied Colonel Ellis, 'I will take the flints out of their firelocks, and they *shall* take them.' Sir George would not, however, permit the attempt to be made. The enemy evacuated the two forts during the night, and retired to a third fort near his principal works. The second division of the army having now come up, and the way being opened for the fleet by the capture of Pigeon Island, preparations were made for bombarding Fort Bourbon.

"Four mortar batteries opened on the evening of the 19th of February, and continued firing all night. This was repeated till the 24th, when three white flags were hoisted, and negotiations were opened which terminated in the garrison, amounting to 2,000 men fit for duty, besides 700 sick, laying down their arms and eagles and becoming prisoners of war.

"The casualties of the FIRST BATTALION during this service were 2 sergeants and 18 rank and file killed, and Surgeon Power and Lieutenant

Roskelly, 3 sergeants, and 97 rank and file wounded. Of the £850 voted to the wounded at Martinique from the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's, £250 fell to the share of the Grenadier company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, out of which sum the company erected a monument in the Dutch Church at Halifax "to the memory of their comrades who fell in the expedition." The battalion returned to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

For their distinguished conduct on this service the Royal Welsh Fusiliers received the gracious permission of H.R.H. the Prince Regent in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King to bear the word "Martinique" on the regimental colour and appointments.

CHAPTER VIII

THE PENINSULAR WAR

1810. The FIRST BATTALION left Halifax on the 10th of November, 1810, for Portugal. It arrived in the Tagus on the 11th of December, and marched on the 16th of that month to join the army under Viscount Wellington, which was then advancing from the lines of Torres Vedras in pursuit of Marshal Massena. On the 18th the battalion arrived at Sobral, where it joined the FOURTH DIVISION, commanded by Major-General the Hon. George Lowry Cole, under whose orders the Royal Welsh Fusiliers continued till the termination of the war; they were brigaded with the two battalions of the 7th Royal Fusiliers under Colonel the Hon. Henry Pakenham.

1811. On the 5th of March, 1811, Marshal Massena left his cantonments at Santarem and put his army in motion for the frontiers of Portugal. The allied army was immediately ordered in pursuit. The FOURTH DIVISION

formed part of a force which was sent in the direction of Thomar, under the orders of Marshal Beresford who on the 12th came up with a strong rear-guard of the enemy at Redinha. It was immediately attacked, and after a short contest driven in on the main body of Massena's army.

The FOURTH DIVISION having quitted the main British army arrived, on the 9th of April, before Olivença, and on the 15th, a breach having been effected, the Governor, apprehensive of an assault, made an unconditional surrender of the town, and the garrison, 370 in number, marched out prisoners of war.

FIRST SIEGE OF BADAJOZ

Soon afterwards Viscount Wellington gave orders for the siege of Badajoz. The fortress was completely invested on the 8th of May, and the operations of the siege were carried on with little effect till, on the 14th of May, Marshal Beresford, having received intelligence of the march of Marshal Soult from Seville with a strong force to raise the siege, broke up from before the place and advanced to Valverde. The FOURTH DIVISION was left to cover the removal of the stores to Elvas, a service so completely effected that not a single article fell into the hands of the enemy.

ALBUHERA

As the position of Valverde left Badajoz completely open, Marshal Beresford, on the 15th of May, moved his army to the heights of Albuhera. The FOURTH DIVISION joined Beresford's army on the morning of the 16th, only about half an hour before the commencement of the action, and formed with a brigade of Portuguese the second line of the Allied army; the Spanish troops under Generals Blake and Castanos forming the right.

About 8 a.m. the enemy was observed to be in motion. A strong body of his cavalry and two heavy columns of infantry issued from the woods in front of the position, and moved on the bridge and village of Albuhera. Meanwhile Soult, with the main body of his army, crossed the river considerably above the position; and, having taken possession of the heights on the right, attacked and drove the Spaniards from their ground, so as to rake that of the Allies at right angles. In order to dislodge the French from this commanding position, Major-General Cole was ordered to form his division in an oblique line in rear of the right, and an ineffectual attempt was made to induce the Spanish troops to advance. Major-General Stewart's division now arrived from the centre of the line, passed through the Spaniards and attacked the heights. A heavy storm of rain,

added to the smoke of the guns, obscured the atmosphere so much that the leading brigade of this division while in the act of deploying was charged by a body of Polish Lancers, and two regiments were unfortunately broken and cut to pieces. Major-General Houghton's brigade next arrived and sustained the contest for some time, but the enemy's artillery and musketry spread havoc through their ranks; ammunition began to fail. General Houghton was killed; while a deep gulley in their front prevented the British from using their bayonets. Marshal Beresford wavered and seemed prepared to yield the fatal hill. All was confusion in the British lines, when Colonel Hardinge urged Major-General Lowry Cole to lead the Fusiliers (the 7th and 23rd) straight up the hill, and Abercromby's brigade to sweep round its flank. Cole led his men in person, using the Portuguese, under Colonel Hawkshawe, as a guard against a flank attack of the French cavalry. As Dr. Fitchett says: "The story can only be told in Napier's resonant prose. The passage in which he describes the attack of the Fusiliers is one of the classical passages of English battle literature."

"Such a gallant line," says Napier, "issuing from the midst of smoke and rapidly separating itself from the confused and broken multitude, startled the enemy's heavy masses, which were

increasing and pressing forward as to an assured victory; they wavered, hesitated, and then vomiting forth a storm of fire hastily endeavoured to enlarge their front, while a fearful discharge of grape from all their artillery whistled through the British ranks. Myers was killed; Cole, and the Colonels Ellis, Blakeney, and Hawkshawe fell wounded, and the Fusilier battalions, struck by the iron tempest, reeled and staggered like sinking ships. Suddenly and sternly recovering, they closed on their terrible enemies, and then was seen with what a strength and majesty the British soldier fights. In vain did Soult by voice and gesture animate his Frenchmen; in vain did the hardiest veterans, breaking from the crowded columns, sacrifice their lives to gain time for the mass to open out on such a fair field; in vain did the mass itself bear up, and, fiercely striving, fire indiscriminately on friends and foes, while the horsemen hovering on the flank threatened to charge the advancing line. Nothing could stop that astonishing infantry. No sudden burst of undisciplined valour, no nervous enthusiasm weakened the stability of their order, their flashing eyes were bent upon the dark columns in front, their measured tread shook the ground, their dreadful volleys swept away the head of every formation, their deafening shouts overpowered the dissonant cries that broke from all

parts of the tumultuous crowd, as slowly and with a horrid carnage it was pushed by the incessant vigour of the attack to the farthest edge of the height. There the French reserve, mixing with the struggling multitude, endeavoured to restore the fight; but only augmented the irremediable disorder, and the mighty mass giving way like a loosened cliff went headlong down the steep; the rain flowed after in streams discoloured with blood, and 1,800 unwounded men, the remnant of 6,000 unconquerable British soldiers, stood triumphant on the fatal hill."

The loss of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was severe. Captain Montague and Lieutenant Hall, 1 sergeant and 73 rank and file were killed; Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, Captains Hurlford, McDonald, and Stainforth, Lieutenants Harrison, Treeve, Booker, Thorpe, Castles, Harris, Ledwith, and McLellan, 12 sergeants, 1 drummer, 232 rank and file were wounded; and 1 sergeant and 5 men were missing. So numerous were the casualties among the officers and sergeants that Captain Stainforth's company emerged from the action commanded by a corporal.

SECOND SIEGE OF BADAJOZ

On the morning of the 18th of May Marshal Soult retired towards Seville, pursued for some distance by the Allied cavalry.

The siege of Badajoz was then resumed and the place again completely invested on the 25th of May. Additional troops arrived from the northern army to assist, and the FOURTH DIVISION was stationed at Almandralejo to cover the operations. Two assaults had been attempted without success, when Viscount Wellington received information that numerically superior French forces were moving upon Badajoz. The siege was then converted into a blockade, but the approaching relief force being greater than was anticipated the army retired across the Guadiana. The French armies of Marmont and Soult entered Badajoz on the 19th of June.

CIUDAD RODRIGO

About the middle of July the French forces having separated, the FOURTH DIVISION marched to the north and joined the main army which was occupied in blockading Ciudad Rodrigo. Towards the end of September Marshal Marmont, who had been joined by the corps of General Dorsenne, advanced to raise the blockade. Wellington withdrew on the 25th of September to the heights of Fuente Guinaldo. Several minor encounters occurred on the 25th and 26th, and during the night of the 27th the Allies retired towards Alfazates, leaving the FOURTH DIVISION as a rear-guard at Aldea de Ponte. This village was attacked on the 27th

by the French advanced guard, which twice took it and was as often repulsed by the gallant division, which remained masters of the disputed post till night, when it fell back on Soita.

Wellington asked Major-General Pakenham for a "stop-gap regiment" to cover the retirement of the division. The latter replied that he had already placed the Royal Welsh Fusiliers there. "Ah," said his Lordship, "that is the very thing."

In these affairs Captain Van Courtland was killed, and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, commanding the light companies of the brigade, and Captain Cane were severely wounded.

Viscount Wellington returned to Ciudad Rodrigo and the Allies went into cantonments on the frontiers of Portugal.

1812. Ciudad Rodrigo was taken by storm on the 19th of January, 1812. The **FOURTH DIVISION**, however, contributed to this brilliant affair only by taking its turn in the trenches; yet this duty involved no small peril, for the besieged had a superabundance of ammunition and did not spare it.

THIRD SIEGE OF BADAJOZ

Having repaired the works of Ciudad Rodrigo and placed a Spanish garrison there, the Earl of Wellington next turned his attention to Badajoz. On the 16th of March that place was

invested by the Third, Fourth, and Light Divisions. On the 6th of April three breaches were considered practicable and orders were given for the assault. The storming of the breaches in the face of the bastion of La Trinidad and in the curtain between that bastion and that of Santa Maria was assigned to the FOURTH DIVISION, led by Major-General the Hon. Charles Colville. The division moved on to the attack without firing a shot. The enemy was found to be well prepared, and the assailants discovered a want of sufficient scaling ladders at the last moment. Notwithstanding the most heroic and persevering efforts of the British no lodgment could be effected on the breach. As the men ascended the besieged rolled down upon them an astonishing number of loaded shells and exploded a variety of other combustibles previously collected on the face of the breach. Several officers and men reached the summit and grappled with the *chevaux de frise* with which it was guarded, but were finally driven back with great slaughter. Although repulsed in repeated assaults by steel, shot, inundation, heavy weights, and fiery explosions, not an individual attempted to leave the scene of carnage; all remained passive but unflinching beneath the enemy's fire. When Wellington was apprised of the position of affairs at La Trinidad he ordered a withdrawal, and that the division

should re-form for a renewal of the assault a little before dawn. The success of the Third and Fifth Divisions in escalading the castle and bastion of San Vincente, however, obviated the necessity for any further measures; the British had become masters of Badajoz.

The loss of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers during the siege and in the assault was—*Killed*: Captain Maw and Lieutenant Collins, 3 sergeants and 19 rank and file. *Wounded*: Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, Captains Potter, Leahy, Stainforth, and Hawtyn, Lieutenants Farmer, Johnson, Harrison, Brown, Walley, Brownson, Walker, Tucker, Fielding, Holmes, Llewelyn, and Wyngate, 7 sergeants and 85 rank and file. A sergeant and 19 men were missing. Captain Potter and Lieutenant Llewelyn died of their wounds. On the night of the assault, in consequence of Colonel Ellis's and Captain Potter's wounds the battalion was commanded by Captain Leahy.

Major-General Colville was severely wounded, and was carried from the breach by a sergeant of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

SALAMANCA

After the fall of Badajoz the army marched northwards, and on the 16th of June arrived at Salamanca. Marshal Marmont retired on its approach, leaving garrisons in some forts which

commanded the Tormes. Marmont appeared on the 20th in front of Wellington's position at San Christoval and made a strong demonstration with his cavalry on the plain, but after a warm skirmish again retired. Lieutenant Leonard, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, while witnessing this affair was killed by a chance shot fired from a distance. Manœuvres continued for several weeks, each general narrowly watching his adversary and holding himself in readiness to attack on the commission of any important fault. Such an opportunity presented itself on the 22nd of July on the plains of Salamanca, and Wellington hastened to avail himself of it.

The attack was made against the centre and left of the enemy. The resistance of the centre was very obstinate. The FOURTH DIVISION advanced to the attack in line exposed to a very accurate fire of grape and round shot. The division carried two positions in the most gallant style; but the most determined valour cannot always overcome superior numbers. It was opposed to Bonnet's division—about 10,000 strong—got intermixed with the lines of the enemy, deployed on the left flank of the Portuguese brigade of the division, and finally compelled the French to retrograde some 400 yards; here it re-formed, and being joined by the Sixth Division renewed the attack with complete success.

The victory of Salamanca cost the regiment Major Offley and 9 rank and file killed; Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, Major Dalmer, Lieutenants John Enoch, McDonald, Fryer, and Clyde, and 84 rank and file wounded.

The enemy being now driven across the Douro, the Marquis of Wellington (to which title his Lordship had been advanced after this victory) marched upon Madrid, where the army received, on the 12th of August, an enthusiastic welcome from the inhabitants of the Spanish capital. The regiment was posted at the Escorial, where it remained till the retreat of the army to the frontiers of Portugal in consequence of the failure of the attack on the Castle of Burgos and the approach of Marshal Soult with his army from Andalusia, and of General Clausel with the troops that had been defeated at Salamanca.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers reached Soutilla, on the banks of the Douro, on the 5th of December, so reduced by eleven months of incessant service that, although afterwards joined by a few men from the second battalion, it commenced the campaign of the following year with only 300 effective men; most of these, however, were hardy, experienced veterans, and all were newly clothed and in the highest state of equipment

VITTORIA

1813. The army took the field in the middle of May 1813, drove the enemy from his position on the Douro, and followed him up without intermission as far as Vittoria on the Zadora, where, on the 21st of June, a general action was fought which terminated in the total defeat of the French commanded by King Joseph, who narrowly escaped being made prisoner. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers took part in guarding an important bridge, but they did not come into immediate collision with the enemy. Lieutenant Sydney was wounded and four men were killed in driving the French across the Zadora on the 19th of July.

In consequence of the decisive victory of Vittoria, the whole of the French, with the exception of the garrisons of San Sebastian and Pampeluna, evacuated the Spanish territory and retired across the Pyrenees.

THE PASS OF RONCESVALLES

The blockade of Pampeluna was entrusted to the Spaniards, the **FOURTH DIVISION** covering them in front of the Pass of Roncesvalles. Ten days after Vittoria the French Emperor had dispatched Marshal Soult with a large force to bar the passes of the Pyrenees against Wellington. On the 25th of July Soult made his appearance in the Roncesvalles Pass, and the **FOURTH DIVI-**

sion, after an obstinate resistance to a very superior force, was compelled to retire to a strong position in their rear which the enemy did not venture to attack.

PAMPELUNA

On the two following days the enemy continued to advance in great force, and the Allied army, which was now concentrated to cover the blockade of Pampeluna, fell back on that fortress, near which both armies were drawn up in order of battle on the 28th of July.

The chief efforts of the enemy during this day were directed against the position occupied by the FOURTH DIVISION, which was engaged in a contest second only to that of Albuhera in severity. It is thus described in a letter written by Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis to Captain Harrison : " The battle of the 28th of July was a beautiful display of military manœuvres ; the enemy formed his columns in the most perfect order, and advanced to the attack with a rapidity and impetus apparently irresistible. I was in immediate support of the 7th Caçadores (Portuguese), who were the advanced piquet and consequently received the first shock of the enemy's column. My people only thought of fighting, and at once checked their progress. Our supports on both sides were brought up, and the contest continued with varying success till four o'clock, when the enemy

withdrew, leaving only his Voltigeurs in our front. We had three enemy divisions upon us—their 4th, 5th, and 7th; the two former were chiefly opposed to our 40th, which made unheard-of charges, indeed the whole day was a succession of charges.”

“In the course of this contest,” wrote the Marquis of Wellington, “the gallant FOURTH DIVISION, which has so frequently distinguished itself in this army, surpassed their former good conduct. Every regiment charged with the bayonet, and the 40th, 7th, 20th, and 23RD four different times.”

Captains Stainforth and Walker were killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, Lieutenants the Hon. John Neville, Harris, and Brice, and Adjutant McLellan were wounded. “The battalion,” further wrote Colonel Ellis, “has only the semblance of one. I commenced the action of the 25th with only 254; so with the loss of 105 in action, sick, and attendants on the wounded, I am reduced to 160 bayonets. On the morning of the 30th, when formed for the pursuit of Marshal Soult, I only stood 121, and by the 2nd of August I was reduced to 108.”

THE PYRENEES

On the 29th of July both armies remained inactive, but on the 30th the enemy was observed to be in motion. He was instantly attacked and

compelled totally to abandon a position which Wellington declared to be one of the strongest and most difficult of access ever occupied by troops.

On the 2nd of August the French were once more driven through the passes of the Pyrenees into their own territory.

SAN SEBASTIAN

The breach of San Sebastian was carried by assault on the 31st of August, the storming party consisting of volunteers from the different divisions of the army, and those of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were commanded by Lieutenant Griffiths, who was among the wounded.

After the fall of San Sebastian the hostile armies remained for some time inactive. The troops suffered severely from the inclemency of the weather, and had to be ever on the alert owing to the close neighbourhood of a watchful enemy.

IN FRANCE

Early in the morning of the 7th of October the army, under favour of a dark and stormy sky, descended from the heights, crossed the Bidassoa, and established itself on French territory with little opposition from the enemy.

On the 10th of November the army moved

down the passes in perfect silence to await the dawn of day to make their attack. This was commenced by the FOURTH DIVISION, which carried a strong redoubt in front of the village of Sarre, drove the enemy from that village and continued its advance against the heights exposed to the fire of entrenchments by which the position was covered.

NIVELLE

These entrenchments, however, were successively abandoned as the division advanced, the enemy flying in great disorder towards the bridges of the Nivelle. The garrison of one redoubt, which alone offered any resistance, was captured. Other attacks were all equally successful, and terminated in Marshal Soult withdrawing the whole of his army and resigning his position to the Allies, who now went into cantonments in advance of the Nivelle.

THE NIVE

On the 9th of December the army was again in motion, and attacked the enemy's position on the Nive. On that and the four following days a severe contest was maintained by the hostile forces, in which each was in turn the assailant. The flanks of the position were the contested points, and the FOURTH DIVISION, which was in the centre, was not immediately engaged, but

marched from time to time to the support of either flank.

Two battalions of Nassau troops, having heard of the liberation of their country from the yoke of Napoleon, deserted from the French, and were received on the 11th of December by Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, who then commanded the brigade.

After the passage of the Nive the army again went into cantonments; the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at Ustaritz.

ORTHES

1814. The British army took the field in the middle of February 1814, and drove the enemy through a most difficult and intersected country, till, on the 27th of February, he made a stand in a strong position at Orthes. The attack was commenced by the FOURTH DIVISION under Major-General Lowry Cole, carrying the village of St. Boe's after an obstinate struggle. Two lines of the enemy were posted on the heights above, and the only approach lay along a narrow tongue of ground, flanked on either side by a deep ravine.

After sustaining a destructive fire from the enemy's guns, the division, notwithstanding their persevering efforts, found it impossible to gain the heights; but by a powerful attack in flank the enemy was dislodged and pursued by cavalry, who made many prisoners.

Captains Wynore and Jolliffe and Lieutenant Harris of the battalion were severely wounded and 50 men were killed or wounded.

TOULOUSE

By the 10th of April the whole army had crossed the Garonne and attacked the French under the walls of Toulouse, driving them within its walls. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were not exposed to musketry in this action, but were under artillery fire the whole day. The casualties did not exceed eight killed and wounded.

The French army evacuated Toulouse during the night of the 11th of April and the town hoisted the white flag. In the afternoon of that day intelligence was received of the abdication of Napoleon. A disbelief in the truth of this news occasioned much unnecessary bloodshed at Bayonne, whose garrison made a desperate sortie on the 14th of April. This was the last action of the Peninsular War.

After the battle of Toulouse what was left of the battalion marched to Langon, near Bordeaux, and remained there during the whole of the month of May. On the 1st of June it marched to Blancfort, and there embarked for England, arriving at Plymouth on the 25th

of June, whence shortly afterwards it proceeded to Gosport.

For the services rendered by the first battalion during the Peninsular War the Royal Welsh Fusiliers received the Royal authority to bear on the regimental colour and appointments the words: "Albuhera," "Badajoz," "Salamanca" "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Orthes," "Toulouse," and "Peninsula."

Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis, who had been promoted on the 4th of June to the rank of Colonel by brevet, was appointed a K.C.B., and received the honorary distinction of a cross and one clasp. Lieutenant-Colonel Sutton, also a Colonel by brevet and a K.C.B., received a cross and three clasps for his services in the Portuguese army. Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, a medal. Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Dalmer, a medal and one clasp. Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, attached to the Portuguese army, a cross. Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Hurford, a medal and one clasp. Captain Leahy, who commanded the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at the storming of Badajoz, a medal.

On the 25th of October, 1814, the second battalion was reduced, when 26 sergeants, 21 corporals, 23 drummers, and 377 privates were transferred to the first battalion, whose muster, including recruits, then reached up-

wards of 1,000 rank and file. Of these, however, many of the veterans of Holland, Egypt, Martinique, and the Peninsula, and some limited service men shortly afterwards took their discharge.

CHAPTER IX

WATERLOO

1815. Napoleon's escape from Elba called Europe to arms, and the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (their ranks filled hastily with young recruits) were again ordered on service, and on the 23rd of March, 1815, embarked at Gosport for Ostend. After landing at Ostend on the 30th they proceeded in canal-boats to Bruges, and passing through Ghent to Lessines they joined the **FOURTH DIVISION**, commanded by Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Charles Colville.

On the 24th of April the regiment marched to Grammont, where it remained, with the intermission of a few days, until the 15th of June, when the troops were hurriedly summoned from their cantonments in consequence of the advance of the French army commanded by the Emperor in person.

The regiment marched with the greatest expedition during the whole of the 16th and 17th, and arrived late in the evening of the latter day at Braine la Leude, outside of which it

bivouacked in a wheat-field under torrents of rain.

The station of the FOURTH DIVISION on the memorable 18th of June was in the reserve, and during the early part of the day the regiment was merely exposed to a distant cannonade, from which it suffered no loss. The light companies of the brigade were, however, engaged and lost some men.

As the day advanced, Colonel Sir Henry Ellis, perceiving an opening where his regiment might be employed with advantage, moved it up into the line, where, formed in square, it sustained several charges of the French Cuirassiers. The greater number of the men were now for the first time in the presence of an enemy: but it is recorded that these emulated the steadiness of their veteran comrades and all nobly maintained the high character of the regiment.

The glories of the battle of Waterloo were dearly purchased by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers with the life of their beloved commander, Sir Henry Ellis, who, continuing on horseback in the centre of the square, was struck by a musket-ball in the right breast. Feeling himself faint from loss of blood, he calmly desired that an opening might be made in the square and rode through it to the rear. He was thrown from his horse, was found much exhausted and carried to an out-house, where his wound was dressed. The

outhouse unfortunately caught fire during the night of the 19th of June, and he was with difficulty rescued from the flames by Assistant-Surgeon Munro of the regiment, but, exhausted by so many shocks, he soon after expired.¹

The Duke of Wellington in his dispatch dated Orville, June 29, 1815, states: "Your Lordship will see in the enclosed lists the names of some valuable officers lost to His Majesty's service. Among these I cannot avoid to mention Colonel Cameron of the 92nd and Colonel Sir Henry Ellis of the 23rd Regiment, to whose conduct I have frequently drawn your Lordship's attention and who at last fell distinguishing themselves at the head of the brave troops they commanded. Notwithstanding the glory of the occasion, it is impossible not to lament such men both on account of the public and as friends."

The other casualties were Brevet - Major Hawtyn, Captains Jolliffe and Farmer, Lieutenant Fenshaw, 2 sergeants, and 9 rank and file killed, and Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, Captain Johnson, Lieutenants Fielding, Griffiths, Clyde, and Sidley, 7 sergeants, and 71 rank and file wounded.

¹ The officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the regiment commemorated their affection and esteem for their distinguished leader by erecting a monument to his memory at a cost of £1,200 in the Cathedral of Worcester, his native city. He was eight times wounded in action, and was 32 years of age when he fell at Waterloo.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers received the Royal authority to bear the word "Waterloo" on the regimental colour and appointments, a medal was conferred on each soldier and officer and the men were granted the privilege of reckoning two years' service towards additional pay and pension.

THE MARCH TO PARIS

On the 24th of June the FOURTH DIVISION arrived before Cambray, of which it took possession the same day. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers entered by an old breach near the Port du Paris with the loss of Lieutenant Leebody and one private killed. The citadel having surrendered on the following day, the division resumed its march to Paris, and on the 1st of July encamped on the plain of St. Denis.

Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Lowry Cole, having now joined the army, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were at his request transferred to the SIXTH DIVISION, in which they were again brigaded with the 7th Royal Fusiliers, their associates in so many hard-won victories.

1818. The regiment remained in Major-General Kempt's brigade until October 1818, when the British army of occupation was withdrawn from France.

BOOK II

**AFTER WATERLOO TO THE TWO-HUN-
DREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOR-
MATION OF THE REGIMENT**

CHAPTER X

THE regiment went to Ireland after its return from France after Waterloo.

1823. Major-General Sir James Willoughby Gordon, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.H., Quartermaster-General to the Forces, was transferred in 1823 from the colonelcy of the 85th Light Infantry to that of the 23rd, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in succession to General Richard Grenville, deceased.

In December 1823 the regiment embarked for Gibraltar. Previous to its departure the following G.O. was issued by Lieutenant-General Lord Combermere, G.C.B., commanding the Forces in Ireland :—

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, DUBLIN,
November 24, 1823.

GENERAL ORDER.

The 23rd, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, being on the point of embarkation for a foreign station, Lieutenant-General Lord Combermere feels he cannot in too strong terms express his approval of the general good conduct and discipline of this

superb regiment during the time it has been under his orders.

The 23rd, so eminently distinguished for its services in the field, has been uniformly conspicuous in this command for its soldierlike appearance and behaviour ; and from the ample opportunity the Lieutenant-General has had of personal observation, he is enabled to bear testimony to the merit of the system—evinced throughout the corps the greatest zeal, energy, and talent on the part of Colonel Pearson, as well as unremitting attention on the part of all under his command.

By command of the Lieutenant-General.

J. GARDINER,
D.A. General.

*To Lieutenant-Colonel W. HARRISON,
Commanding 23rd Fusiliers.*

1825. The regiment was divided in 1825 into six service and four depôt companies ; these latter were stationed first at Plymouth and afterwards at Brecon.

1826. The depôt companies proceeded to Guernsey in April 1826, but returned to England in the following September.

1827. In January 1827 the service battalion joined the expedition to Portugal under Lieutenant-General Sir William Clinton, and returned to Gibraltar in March 1828.

1830. In November 1830 the depot companies went to Ireland.

THE FLASH

1834. The service battalion left Gibraltar in 1834, and arrived at Gosport on the 10th of November, when an incident occurred which resulted in the preservation for the Royal Welsh Fusiliers of a distinguishing mark which is proudly cherished by them to this day.

The dressing of the hair of soldiers in the form of a queue, or pigtail, had been generally discontinued, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers being the last regiment to wear it. Those queues were powdered and greased, and in order to protect the red coat from being stained, the queue was tied with a bunch of black ribbons which was called the queue-bag.

The officers and staff-sergeants¹ had retained the ribbons on the back of the collar of the tunic, and this peculiarity was noticed by the general at the marching-in inspection at Gosport, who ordered its discontinuance as being contrary to regulation.

Colonel Harrison, who commanded the battalion, communicated with the colonel of the regiment, Sir James Willoughby Gordon, drove

¹ Until 1900 the Flash was worn only by officers, warrant officers, and staff-sergeants, but in that year orders were received that it was to be worn by all ranks of the regiment.

to London, and returned to Gosport with the following letters :—

HORSE GUARDS,

November 28, 1834.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in transmitting to you the accompanying letter from the Adjutant-General conveying the King's gracious approval of the "Flashes," now worn by the officers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, being henceforth worn and established as a peculiarity whereby to mark the dress of that distinguished regiment.

In thus making known to you this gracious mark of His Majesty's Royal favour, and in desiring that the enclosed letter may be duly registered in the records of the regiment, I have no doubt that it will be felt by the regiment, as it ought to be, both as an honourable proof of His Majesty's approbation and as an inducement to use their best endeavours to merit a continuance of such gratifying distinctions.

I have, etc.,

W. GORDON.

To Lieutenant-Colonel HARRISON,

Commanding Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Enclosure.

HORSE GUARDS,

November 28, 1834.

SIR,—By desire of the General-Commanding-in-Chief I have the honour to notify to you that

in consequence of your letter and Lord Hill's recommendation the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the "Flashes" now worn by the officers of the 23rd Foot, or Royal Welsh Fusiliers, being henceforth worn and established as a peculiarity whereby to mark the dress of that distinguished regiment. I have Lord Hill's command to request that you will be pleased to cause this mark of His Majesty's gracious favour to be duly registered in the records of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

I have, etc.,

JOHN MACDONALD,

A.G.

To Lieut.-General Sir J. W. GORDON, Bart., G.C.B.,
Colonel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

The service battalion was joined on its arrival at Gosport by the dépôt companies which had removed from Ireland in the previous August.

1835. In March 1835 Royal authority was granted for the addition of the word "Corunna" to those on the regimental colour. In the course of this year the regiment occupied quarters at Weedon, Winchester, and Manchester.

1836. The regiment went to Dublin in September 1836.

1837. Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison relinquished the command of the regiment in March 1837, thus terminating a continuous service with it of over thirty-two years.

CANADA

1838. The service battalion embarked at Cork on the 22nd of May, 1838, under Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, for Nova Scotia, where it arrived on the 13th of June. It subsequently moved into Canada. The *depôt* companies remained in Ireland until 1840.

1840. When the service battalion left Halifax, Nova Scotia, the "magistrates, clergy, and all the respectable inhabitants of Halifax" presented an address to the regiment in which they expressed their "admiration of that uniform propriety for which the distinguished corps has ever been celebrated, adding, "It is highly honourable to the regiment that while their bravery in the field has universally merited the applause of their fellow-subjects and obtained so many proofs of Royal approbation, they also in times of tranquillity exemplify that respect for the social arrangements of life which so happily blends the character of the civilian with that of the soldier."

1842. In consequence of the augmentation of the Army in April 1842, the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers was separated into two battalions, the service companies abroad becoming the **FIRST BATTALION**; the *depôt*, increased by two new companies, being styled the **RESERVE BATTALION**.

The depôt was removed to Chichester, and there received 180 volunteers from other corps.

The RESERVE BATTALION was organized for foreign service, and on the 13th of May, 1842, it embarked at Portsmouth for Canada under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Wellesley Torrens, arriving at Montreal on the 30th of June.

It was during their stay at Montreal that Major Holmes's house was burnt to the ground and the "Spurs of Toby Purcell" (see p. 29) were lost to the regiment.

Mr. Charles Dickens paid a visit to Montreal in 1842, and took part in some theatricals in which several officers of the battalion and their wives performed. He evidently enjoyed himself, for he wrote: "We had the band of the 23rd, one of the finest in the service, in the orchestra. I prompted myself when I was not on. I really do believe that I was very funny; at least I know that I laughed heartily at myself."

THE WEST INDIES

1843. The FIRST BATTALION went from Quebec to the West Indies in September 1843, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens, and arrived at Barbadoes in October. A detachment proceeded to Demerara, but suffered so much from yellow fever that it was recalled to headquarters at Barbadoes in April 1844.

1844. The FIRST BATTALION removed in November 1844 to the Island of Trinidad. In this year the regimental goat, which had accompanied the regiment into action at Bunker's Hill, died; and Her Majesty Queen Victoria was pleased to direct that the two finest goats of a flock in Windsor Park, the gift of the Shah of Persia, should be given to the regiment—one of these joined the First Battalion at Halifax, N.S., in 1847, and the other was sent to the Reserve Battalion in Canada.

The FIRST BATTALION continued in the West Indies until March 1847. During their stay Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens for two and a half years administered the civil government of St. Lucia, and by the sanitary measures pursued by him preserved the health of the troops with unprecedented success. A few months afterwards the Duke of Wellington issued a general circular ordering that similar precautions should be taken at all military commands at foreign stations where draining and clearing were requisite. Her Majesty's Government offered the permanent Lieutenant-Governorship to Colonel Torrens, but he preferred to remain with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

1847. The FIRST BATTALION sailed from the West Indies on the 15th of March, 1847, for Nova Scotia, and the RESERVE BATTALION while at Montreal was called out, with the 71st

Light Infantry, to quell a serious riot. The troops received the thanks of the commander of the forces for "their forbearance, good temper, and discipline in the face of thousands of exasperated rioters." Lieutenant-General Sir John Harvey, who inspected the FIRST BATTALION within a few weeks of its arrival from the West Indies, wrote to assure Sir J. Willoughby Gordon that his regiment was "all you could wish it whether as respects health, description of men, discipline in the field of exercise, conduct in quarters, and complete efficiency in every other respect."

1848. The FIRST BATTALION embarked at Halifax on the 16th of September, 1848, for England, arriving at Portsmouth on the 7th of October, whence it proceeded to Winchester.

1849. In July 1849 the veteran Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes, who was in command of the RESERVE BATTALION, died from cholera in Canada.

CHAPTER XI

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS BY THE PRINCE CONSORT

1849. On the 12th of July, 1849, new colours were presented to the regiment by Field-Marshal His Royal Highness Prince Albert, at Winchester Barracks.

The FIRST BATTALION being drawn up in line, with the old colours in the centre, received His Royal Highness with the usual honours ; the flank companies were then brought forward so as to form three sides of a square, to the centre of which the new colours were brought under escort and piled on an altar of drums. The Rev. George Gleig, M.A., Chaplain-General to the Forces, then consecrated them, after which His Royal Highness delivered them to Lieutenants Bruce and Sutton, and addressed the battalion as follows :—

“Soldiers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers! The ceremony we are performing this day is a most important and, to every soldier, a sacred one.

It is the transmission to your care and keeping of the colours which are henceforth to be borne before you—which will be the symbol of your honour and your rallying-point in all moments of danger.

“I feel most proud to be the person who is to transmit these colours to a regiment so renowned for its valour, fortitude, steadiness, and discipline.

“In looking over the record of your services, I could not refrain from extracting a few, which show your deeds to have been intimately connected with all the great periods in our history.

“The regiment was raised in 1689. Its existence therefore began with the settlement of the liberties of the country. It fought at the *Boyne* under Schomberg; captured *Namur* in Flanders in 1695; formed part of the great Marlborough's legions at *Blenheim*, *Ramillies*, *Oudenarde*, and *Malplaquet*; fought in 1743 at *Dettingen*, and at *Fontenoy* in 1745; decided the battle of *Minden* in 1759, for which the name of MINDEN is inscribed on the colours; showed examples of valour and perseverance in America—in 1775 at *Bunker's Hill*, in 1777 at *Brandywine*, in 1780 at the capture of *Charlestown*, and in 1781 at *Guildford*. The regiment accompanied the Duke of York to *Holland*, was amongst the first to land in *Egypt* in 1801, under the brave Abercromby, and was the last to embark at

Corunna in 1809. Between these important services it fought at *Copenhagen*, and was at the taking of *Martinique*. EGYPT, MARTINIQUE, and CORUNNA are waving on these colours. In the PENINSULA the regiment won for its colours, under the Duke of Wellington, the names of *Albuhera*, *Badajoz*, *Salamanca*, *Vittoria*, *Pyrenees*, *Nievelle*, *Orthes*, and *Toulouse*.

“The deeds performed at *Albuhera* are familiar to everybody who has read Napier’s unsurpassable description¹ of that action. The regiment was again victorious over a powerful enemy at the Duke’s last great victory at *Waterloo*.

“Although you are all, of course, well acquainted with these glorious records, I have thought it right to refer to them as a proof that they have not been forgotten by others, and as the best mode of appealing to you to show yourselves at all times worthy of the name you bear.

“Receive these colours, *one* emphatically called THE QUEEN’S—let it be the pledge of your loyalty to your Sovereign, and of obedience to the laws of your country; and the *other* more especially the REGIMENTAL one—let that be a pledge of your determination to maintain the honour of your regiment. In looking at the one, you will think of your Sovereign; in looking at the other, you will think of those

¹ See p. 118.

who have fought, bled, and conquered, before you."

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Wellesley Torrens, in the course of an eloquent reply, said that the regiment welcomed the responsibilities and felt the privilege of succeeding to so vast an inheritance of renown. He claimed that the regiment as then constituted had served faithfully, patiently, and honourably during a prolonged foreign and colonial service in every climate, from the burning sun of the Mediterranean and of Portugal to the snows of Canada and the heat and pestilence of the West Indian Archipelago. He concluded with these words: "Throughout I have seen the discipline of the regiment preserved, and its high spirit maintained; and, Sir, I know and feel that when the hour of trial shall arrive, it will be found that a discipline so patient and so enduring is animated by the selfsame determination which hurled back the French from Albuhera heights, and stemmed their squadrons on the crowning field of Waterloo."

The new colours were then trooped, and took the place of the old ones, which were marched off the parade.

His Royal Highness afterwards honoured the officers with his presence at luncheon.

The old colours were lodged in the church of St. Peter's, Carmarthen, on the 19th of November, 1849, with military honours.

DISASTER ON LAKE ERIE

1850. The RESERVE BATTALION, which had been stationed in Montreal since July 1847 was ordered to London, Canada West, and proceeded by the River St. Lawrence and Lakes Ontario and Erie. Most unfortunately the steamer *Commerce*, having on board Captain Phillott and Second-Lieutenants Sir H. Chamberlain and Radcliffe, Assistant-Surgeon Grantham, One Company, and several women and children—in all 112 persons—was run down by another steamer on Lake Erie on the night of the 6th of May, 1850, when Surgeon Grantham, 3 sergeants, 2 corporals, 19 privates, and 8 women were drowned.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army on the 8th of June, 1850, expressed his approbation of the conduct of both officers and men on board the *Commerce* under most trying circumstances.

The FIRST BATTALION moved to Plymouth and remained there until the middle of the following year.

1851. On the death of Sir James Willoughby Gordon, on the 4th of July, 1851, Sir George Charles D'Aguilar, K.C.B., was appointed colonel of the regiment.

The FIRST BATTALION left Plymouth in July—part under Lieutenant-Colonel Torrens for

Chester, a detachment going to the Isle of Man, and four companies under Major Lysons to Liverpool.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, with their band and the Royal goat, furnished a guard of honour at the opening by Her Majesty the Queen of the Britannia Bridge across the Menai Straits. They also formed guards of honour at the opening of the St. George's Hall, Liverpool.

A company of the RESERVE BATTALION in Canada was detached to Hamilton West in aid of the civil power.

1852. During this year the Royal goat died in Chester Castle, and a "successor" was presented by Her Majesty.

1853. Early in 1853 Lieutenant-Colonel Crutchley returned from Canada and relieved Major Lysons, who was in command of the FIRST BATTALION, which had moved to Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, Colonel Torrens having been appointed to the Headquarters Staff a short time previously.

In bidding farewell to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Colonel Torrens said that throughout his eleven years' service with them it had been his pride to have seen undisturbed the efficiency, high spirit, good feeling, and unsurpassed reputation of the regiment. "Stirring times," he added, "may perhaps be at hand, and I will proudly and confidently watch the calm and steady deter-

mination which I know the young 23rd will show through the smoke of a hostile fire to imitate the hard-won glories of the old regiment." Major Mainwaring thus comments on this farewell: "Colonel Torrens' words were prophetic. The Crimean War broke out shortly afterwards, and the young 23rd fulfilled all he had prophesied."

In May 1853 the RESERVE BATTALION was unexpectedly recalled to England from Canada. It joined the FIRST BATTALION at Parkhurst on the 27th of July, and in August the two battalions were amalgamated under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Crutchley.

CHAPTER XII

THE CRIMEAN WAR

FOLLOWING a dispute between Russia and Turkey as to the custody of holy places in and near Jerusalem, Russia sent troops into Turkish territory, and Turkey declared war against Russia. England and France, deeming the position which Russia would occupy at Constantinople, in the event of Turkey's defeat, prejudicial to their interests and a disturbance of the balance of power in Europe, decided to support Turkey.

1854. On the 4th of April, 1854, eight service companies of the regiment embarked at Southampton for Turkey, leaving two dépôt companies at home.

Lieutenant-Colonel Crutchley was not able, owing to ill-health, to accompany the regiment, and was succeeded in the command by Lieutenant-Colonel Chester, who had previously commanded the Reserve Battalion.

The officers who embarked were : Lieutenant-Colonel Chester ; Majors D. Lysons and H. W.

Bunbury; Captains A. W. W. Wynn, E. W. D. Bell, F. E. Evans, J. C. Connolly, W. P. Campbell, R. Bruce, and C. E. Hopton; First-Lieutenants C. G. Sutton, E. G. Bulwer, Sir W. A. Young, Bart., G. H. Hughes, F. E. Deane, F. Sayer, F. P. Delmé Radcliffe, J. C. Bathurst, J. John, A. Applewaite; Second-Lieutenants J. Duff, D. Dyneley, B. Granville, H. Anstruther, F. F. Vane, J. H. Butler; Paymaster H. Hall Dare; Adjutant H. D. Torrens; Quartermaster J. Aston; Surgeon W. G. Watt, and Assistant-Surgeon E. K. Jenkins.

The regiment arrived at Scutari on the 25th of April, and was placed in the LIGHT DIVISION under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir George Browne, K.C.B. It formed part of the First Brigade under Brigadier-General Airey which consisted of the 7th, the 23rd, the 33rd Regiments and the second battalion of the Rifle Brigade.

In following the fortunes of the LIGHT DIVISION it should be borne in mind that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers led the division.

During May of this year the regiment was augmented to twelve companies and the rank of "Ensign" was substituted for that of "Second Lieutenant."

Having steamed up the Bosphorus the regiment encamped with its division outside

the walls of Varna, and on the 5th of June the division marched to Aladin, where it was reviewed by General Canrobert of the French army.

From the time the division left Aladin the food became very bad and insufficient. No vegetables were issued, there was scarcely any salt or pepper, and the health of the troops greatly deteriorated. Cholera made its appearance on the 22nd of July. The supply of medicines was very limited. At one time the medical officers were so badly in want of astringents that they made a decoction of the bark of oak-trees to supply the need. On the 2nd of August Assistant-Surgeon Jenkins died of cholera.

Brigadier-General Airey was appointed Quartermaster-General to the army, and Major-General Codrington succeeded him in the command of the First Brigade of the LIGHT DIVISION.

The men of No. 1 Company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers under Major Lysons were the first British troops to land in the Crimea. Some arabas having been seen in the distance, this party was dispatched in pursuit; and getting within range they fired a few shots at the Cossack escort, which galloped off leaving in the hands of the Fusiliers fourteen arabas full of firewood and fruit, the drivers, and bullocks.

Captain C. G. Sutton died of cholera on board a transport.

ALMA

The army commenced its march on Sevastopol on the 19th of September, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at the head of the LIGHT DIVISION leading. They met a Russian force which, however, retired after a sharp cannonade from the artillery of the Division. The division then sent out piquets, and bivouacked where it had deployed.

On the morning of the 20th of September the enemy was observed on the far side of the River Alma. Beyond the river was an open slope devoid of cover. On this slope was the Great Redoubt which evidently was the key and strength of the Russian position. It was flanked on one side by the Lesser Redoubt, and on the other by batteries of artillery supported by infantry.

The army moved forward to the attack. The front line, composed of the LIGHT DIVISION and the Second Division, with the First Division in support, deployed under a heavy fire as they approached the river. A village which had been set on fire by the Russians hindered the progress of the Second Division, and the houses, walls, and vineyards, and finally the river, broke the order of the remainder of the troops, who, however, crossed the river in face of a hot fire poured upon them from the opposite bank.

The LIGHT DIVISION endeavoured to re-form under a steep bank, when a heavy Russian column approached. General Codrington gathered his brigade and some other units which had become entangled with it, rushed forward, and drove the enemy up the slope. Captain Connolly who sprang to the front to cheer on his men, was instantly killed. The enemy's heavy guns tore gaps in the advancing troops; but their onset became a rush, the defenders of the Redoubt limbered up and carried off their guns, except two—one of them, a 16-pounder, harnessed to two black horses, was captured by Captain Bell of the 23rd, who compelled the driver, at the point of his capless pistol, to dismount.¹

The correspondent of the *Times* wrote: "Sir George Browne, conspicuous on a grey horse, rode in front of the Light Division. The 7th, diminished by one-half, fell back to re-form their column. The 23rd, with eight officers dead and four wounded, were still rushing forward, aided by the 19th, 33rd, 77th, and 88th. Down went Sir George in a cloud of dust in front of the Battery; but he was soon up, and shouted 'Twenty-third! I'm all right.' But in the shock produced by his fall the regiment suffered

¹ This gun, known as "Bell's gun," was afterwards brought to England, and in 1885 was sent to the brigade depôt at Wrexham.

terribly while paralysed for a moment. The brunt of the action was borne by a brigade of the LIGHT DIVISION . . . they advanced against the strongest point of the enemy's works and over the most difficult ground. This alone explains the lamentable loss of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers."

Young Anstruther, who carried the Queen's colour of the Royal Welsh, leading all who strove to keep up with him, gained the Redoubt and dug the flagstaff into the parapet—standing there for a moment he was shot dead. William Evans, a swift-footed soldier, gathered up the flag, and raising it proudly made claim to the stronghold on behalf of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Afterwards, Evans delivered the colour to Corporal Luby, who in turn handed it to Sergeant Luke O'Connor. The latter was soon badly wounded, but would not part with the cherished standard, and he bore it all the rest of the day. He was shortly afterwards promoted to an ensigncy in the regiment, and for his gallantry on this occasion received the V.C. at the hands of Her Majesty after the close of the war. Corporal Luby was awarded the distinguished service medal.

Flushed with success, the front line was again preparing to advance when a deplorable mistake occurred. A mounted officer called out "Cease firing! You are firing on the French." This

was not the case. But the word ran down the line, and some confusion ensued of which the enemy took instant advantage, and advancing several heavy columns drove the LIGHT DIVISION from the Redoubt with severe loss.

The First Division, which was at some distance in the rear, came up with a rush and retook the Redoubt at the point of the bayonet. The LIGHT DIVISION then rallied, forming the second line, and acted as a support to the Guards and Highlanders in the final assault. The key of their position having been forced, and their left being threatened by the French, the Russians retreated on all sides.

During the action the regimental colour of the 7th Royal Fusiliers was found lying on the ground by Captain Pearson of that regiment, aide-de-camp to Sir George Browne. No officer of the 7th being near, General Codrington desired him to give it to Captain Bell, saying, "It cannot be in safer keeping than that of the Royal Welsh." Both regimental colours, that of the 7th and that of the 23rd, were borne out of the action by sergeants.

Lieutenant-Colonel Chester and Captain Evans were killed near the Redoubt. Major Lysons being at the time with the Second Division as Assistant-Adjutant-General, Captain Campbell took command. He was soon afterwards twice wounded and obliged to fall to the

rear, and the honour of bringing the Royal Welsh Fusiliers out of the action devolved upon Captain Bell, who subsequently was awarded the V.C.

The names of Colonel Chester and Captain Bell were mentioned in dispatches by Sir George Browne. Major Lysons was mentioned by Sir De Lacy Evans.

The casualties of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at the battle of the Alma were—*Killed*: Lieutenant-Colonel Chester, Captains A. W. W. Wynn, Connolly, and Evans, Lieutenants Delmé Radcliffe, Anstruther, Sir W. Young, and J. Butler. *Wounded*: Captains Campbell and Hopton, Lieutenants Bathurst and Sayer, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Applewaite—the latter died of his wounds. Forty-eight non-commissioned officers and men were killed (including Sergeant-Major Jones) and 198 were wounded.¹

On the 21st of September Major Lysons, whose lieutenant-colonelcy was afterwards dated from that day, took command of the regiment.

No officers being left with several companies, Lieutenants Beresford, Brown, and Radcliffe of

¹ A handsome monument was erected in the Crimea to their glorious memory. A subscription of nearly £2,000 was raised by some noblemen and gentlemen connected with the principality of Wales, and invested by the name of "The Alma Fund" for the benefit of deserving widows and orphans of non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment.

the 88th Regiment were attached to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and they were made honorary life members of the mess of the regiment.

The LIGHT DIVISION accompanied the army to Katscha, Tchernaya, and Balaclava. On the 4th of October the regiment was equalized into six divisions.

At the famous battle of Balaclava the LIGHT DIVISION got under arms, but were not called upon to leave camp.

LITTLE INKERMANN

On the 26th of October a strong sortie or reconnoissance was made by the Russians on the Inkerman heights, and some very severe fighting took place before they were driven back. The First Division of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Lieutenants Poole and John, was on piquet in the "White Horse Ravine." They kept up a brisk fire on the flank of the enemy, with marked effect. In this action, which was called "Little Inkerman," one man wounded was the only casualty in the regiment.

The LIGHT DIVISION at this time had piquets at the "White Horse Ravine," the "Middle Ravine," the "Redoubt," and at the "Piquet House." It also formed the guards of the 21-gun and 5-gun batteries.

INKERMAN

Early on the morning of the 5th of November heavy firing was heard on the right towards Inkerman, and it soon became evident that a serious attack was in progress. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were all out on duty. One division, under Lieutenant Duff, was on piquet in the "White Horse Ravine"; two divisions were in the 5-gun battery under Lieutenants Vane and Millett; whilst one division, under Lieutenant Dyneley, which had returned early from the 21-gun battery, was at once sent to the front.

The regiment being thus scattered, Major Bunbury went to the front and remained with General Codrington during the first part of the day, until Major Sir T. Troubridge, of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, who was field officer on duty at the 5-gun battery, was wounded; Major Bunbury being next for duty was sent to relieve him, and remained at that post until the following morning.

Captain Bell joined the companies that were skirmishing on the side of the Ravine, and directed a very effective fire on the enemy.

The Russians had succeeded in getting a large force of artillery up on the heights, and massive columns of their infantry were discerned through the mist advancing through the bush.

During the engagement that ensued, all the batmen, men on guard in the camp, and any of the sick who could carry arms were ordered to turn out, as it was feared that the 5-gun battery would be taken. No officer being in camp, Lieutenant-Colonel Lysons, who was recovering from an attack of fever, got up and took command of the parties of the three regiments of the first brigade. Sixty men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers turned out—every man who could stand had volunteered. They went to the front in support of their comrades, but no serious attack was made in the direction of the Light Division, although the fire from the enemy's artillery across the front, especially at the 5-gun battery and near the Redoubt, was very heavy.

Late in the afternoon, after a severe struggle, the enemy was gradually forced to retire and the battle of Inkerman was won.

In this engagement Sir George Browne was badly wounded, and General Codrington assumed the command of the division. Eight men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were killed, and Lieutenant Vane and 21 rank and file were wounded. During the night Lieutenant Duff, 1 sergeant, and 12 privates were surrounded and taken prisoners in the White Horse Ravine.

Towards the end of November the regiment

was augmented by three supernumerary lieutenants and three supernumerary ensigns.

The regiment was raised on the 6th of December to sixteen companies—eight service companies and eight dépôt companies, each eight being 950 strong. Four of the dépôt companies were stationed at Malta and four at Newport.

A NIGHT ATTACK

On the 20th of December the enemy made a serious attack on the advanced trenches in front of the 21-gun battery, and succeeded in occupying them for a short while. The trenches were, however, quickly retaken. A company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Captain Poole, was on duty there at the time, and Corporal Dawson distinguished himself by remaining at his post with Privates Godden, O'Beirne, and Pearce, and firing on the assailants for some time after the rest of the company had been driven back. The casualties on that night were 1 private killed, 10 wounded, and 9 taken prisoners. Of the last 6 died in Russia.

During this month the weather was most severe and the duties became more and more arduous. Officers and men were frequently on duty two and three nights in succession without any shelter from the snow and rain, whilst

provisions and forage, owing to the lack of transport, were very scarce. Numbers of the troops, and more especially the young soldiers, died in consequence.

The Queen's goat died before Sevastopol in November from the inclemency of the weather. This became known to Her Majesty. She was graciously pleased to signify a wish to replace him by another from the flock in Windsor Park, and inquired, through Colonel Seymour, whether it was the desire of the regiment to have the animal sent out to the Crimea, forwarded to the depôt, or that it should be kept at Windsor until the termination of the contest "in which the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers are bearing so distinguished a part." The fate of the late goat induced Lieutenant-Colonel Lysons to request that his successor might be allowed to remain at Windsor "until the army may have the good fortune to carry back to their ever-mindful Sovereign peace and glory."

1855. On the 8th of January, 1855, a General Order was read to the regiments conveying the thanks of both Houses of Parliament to the army, and bringing to their notice the terms "by which Lord Raglan shows, not only his own approbation, but the admiration which is felt by England of their conduct under great privations and hardships."

During January the weather continued severe. At length the transport broke down altogether, and it became necessary to send fatigue parties to bring up rations from Balaclava, a distance of seven miles. Horses and mules were picked up wherever they could be found, officers' chargers not excepted, but in spite of every exertion the men occasionally were on short rations. The medical arrangements, too, were quite inadequate, the only hospital at this time being a row of bell tents. Medical comforts were very scarce and scarcely any fuel was obtainable.

Ninety-six brave soldiers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers sank under their hardships in this one month. Still, the trenches were kept and the British held the position with a handful of men. The casualties in the regiment during the month were one private killed, and four wounded.

The first hut for the hospital of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was completed on the 10th of February. Lieutenant-Colonel Lysons, who first started the idea of providing huts for the men, put his own hut together almost entirely with his own hands.

The weather improved, reinforcements arrived, the duties became lighter, and provisions were issued with more regularity. The condition and appearance of the men had gradually improved,

and at the end of February, instead of the wretched half-starved spectres in all sorts of tattered cloaks and coats crawling to the trenches, well-dressed soldiers turned out and marched smartly off.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers erected the first mess-hut in camp, and in this hut St. David's Day was celebrated. General Codrington was present at the dinner, for which occasion artificial leeks had been obtained from England. After dinner a goat with gilded horns appeared and was led round the room. When it arrived at Lieutenant-Colonel Lysons's side, it stood up on its hind-legs and drank a glass of sherry to St. David. This loyal goat turned out to be Colonel Lysons's groom, Private Styles, who had dressed himself completely in the head and skin of the goat which had died some months previously. This harmless joke caused great amusement to the gallant party there assembled.

The spirit of the old regiment was wonderful ; still, the duties and conditions were severe. Ninety-two men died of sickness in the month of March ; one man wounded was the only casualty.

Several non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment received silver medals with gratuities for "distinguished conduct in the field."

The establishment of the regiment was altered in March from 1 lieutenant-colonel, 3 majors,

24 lieutenants, and 16 ensigns, to 2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 majors, 26 lieutenants, and 14 ensigns.

The operations of the siege now began to be more active. There were frequent night alarms.

Major Bell's name was honourably mentioned in dispatches for the valuable assistance he had rendered to the Engineer officers in constructing a demi-parallel.

The second bombardment of Sevastopol was commenced on the 9th of April, and ten days later the Russian rifle-pits were taken and the trenches worked up to them. Colonel Egerton, R.E., who commanded the attack, and Captain Lampriere, R.E., were killed. Captain Drewe, with a party of Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was placed in charge of the rifle-pits, and whilst improving the cover therein they were under a heavy fire from the enemy.

During the month of April, 5 privates of the regiment were killed and 7 wounded, and in May, 1 corporal and 16 privates were wounded.

Lieutenant-General D'Aguilar died in May 1855, and Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Rainey, G.C.B., K.H., was appointed to the colonelcy of the regiment.

On the 7th of June, during the third bombardment, the Russian works known as the "Quarries" were carried, and the "Mamelon" was captured by the French.

The fourth bombardment was commenced on the 17th of June. On the following morning the 34th Regiment found the storming party, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lysons commanded the main column of attack; but the enemy's fire was so destructive, that before the column reached the abattis all order was lost, and few of the men were unhurt. Colonel Yea, the commander of the First Brigade, was killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lysons, who was slightly wounded, brought the First Brigade out of the action and continued to command it until the end of the month. His name was mentioned in Lord Raglan's dispatch, and he was afterwards promoted to a brevet-colonelcy. The regiment did not lose many men on this occasion, Sir George Browne having sent an order for their party to remain in the trenches when the column advanced.

During this month General Codrington again took command of the division in the absence of Sir George Browne.

Lord Raglan died on the 24th of June.

On the 29th of June, Lieutenant W. Owen, a very promising young officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was mortally wounded whilst on duty in the advanced trenches in front of the "Quarries."

The casualties in the regiment during June were : 1 officer and 4 privates killed, and 1 ser-

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Major Bell's name was ho in dispatches for the valuable rendered to the Engineer offi a demi-parallel.

The second bombardment commenced on the 9th of April. Later the Russian rifle-pits and trenches worked up to them. R.E., who commanded the attack at Lampriere, R.E., were killed. With a party of Royal Welch placed in charge of the rifle pits, the cover therein being taken from the enemy.

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The fourth bombardment was on the 17th of June. On this day the 34th Regiment found the Malakoff weak, offered scarcely any resistance, and, who occupied the column of attack; but the result was not successful.

British to advance was different parties proceeded they had received. They between the fifth parallel of over 260 yards, under heavy losses; but, keeping as reached and the ladders the storming parties rushing angle, and even got as far embrasure when they were advance could be made in the fire of the enemy.

Royal Welsh Fusiliers were advanced.

During this time Colonel Lysons took command of the attack the proper right flank.

Five companies were at once sent forward, and the Fusiliers jumped over the trench, and advanced in line.

On the night of the 17th all the young officers in the Welsh Fusiliers, non-commissioned officers, and Royal Welsh Fusiliers for advanced from the fifth an extremely heavy fire. He corps has suffered, many old and He views, moreover, with pride

geant, 3 corporals, and 30 privates wounded. In July, 2 privates were killed, and 1 corporal and 10 privates wounded. In August, 1 corporal and 4 privates were killed, and 2 sergeants, 5 corporals, and 49 privates were wounded.

THE REDAN

On the 5th of September the fifth and last bombardment was commenced. It was continued until the 7th, when the following short but thrilling after-order was published: "The Redan will be assaulted after the French have attacked the Malakoff."

The regiment was ordered to parade at a quarter before nine o'clock on the morrow in coatees, black trousers, and forage caps—every man's water-bottle to be quite full.

Major Mainwaring gives the following graphic account of the costly attack on the Redan, in which unsurpassable British bravery proved unavailing against the intrepid defence by the Russian gunners and infantry of their strongly armed works: "On the morning of the 8th of September, 1855, the troops moved down to the trenches to prepare for the attack. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers were placed in the left *boyau* next to the 22nd Battery.

"Exactly at noon the signal was given for the French to advance and attack the Malakoff, and their columns moved quickly to the front. It so

happened that the Russians in the Malakoff were at their dinners at the time and, being totally unprepared for the attack, offered scarcely any resistance to the French, who occupied the position without any loss.

"The signal for the British to advance was then given, and the different parties proceeded to carry out the orders they had received. They crossed the long space between the fifth parallel and the Redan, a distance of over 260 yards, under a heavy fire and suffered heavy losses; but, keeping on steadily, the ditch was reached and the ladders lowered and fixed. The storming parties rushing in, carried the salient angle, and even got as far as the third or fourth embrasure when they were stopped, and no further advance could be made in face of the tremendous fire of the enemy.

"Seeing this, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were moved up to the fifth parallel, and General Codrington ordered Colonel Lysons to detach a wing of the regiment to attack the proper right flank of the Redan. Five companies were at once formed up, the gallant Fusiliers jumped over the parapet of their trench, and advanced in line in splendid style, all the young officers in front waving their swords, cheering on their men. These companies continued to advance, leaving the other parties swarming on the salient angle on the right, until they approached the re-entering angle, and there the enemy's fire became so

terrific—the guns on the flank were throwing grape and canister into their very teeth, and the infantry on the face of the Redan were firing down, and in the front were standing up on the parapet ready to receive them—that it was impossible to advance.

“Colonel Lysons was severely wounded in the thigh close to the ditch. Fourteen officers out of eighteen were hit (two others received slight wounds), and over ninety-seven non-commissioned officers and men had fallen. The few men that remained not being sufficient to attempt another attack fell back to the trenches. Some men, however, with British doggedness did get across the ditch, and bravely met their death fighting on the parapet.

“Lieutenant and Adjutant Dyneley was wounded in the head, and in attempting to reach the trenches became confused and entered a kind of cave under the Russian works. Hearing of this, Assistant-Surgeon Sylvester volunteered to go out and dress his wound, which he accomplished under a galling fire. When the regiment was ordered to return to camp, Captain Drewe, with Corporal Shields, Privates M. Aherne, James Taylor, John Green, and Thomas Kennedy asked leave to bring in their adjutant ; this being granted, they waited until it was dusk, and then went out over the open, under a heavy fire, to the cave, and carried Lieutenant Dyneley in safety

back to the camp. Private Thomas Harris, who had faithfully remained with his wounded officer the whole of the time, came in with him. For their gallantry on this occasion Assistant-Surgeon Sylvester and Corporal Shields received the V.C. Corporal Shields was afterwards awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honour by the Emperor of the French.

“Many deeds of heroism were performed that day, and the old corps behaved splendidly; but the attack was unsuccessful, and the losses of many regiments were exceedingly heavy.”

The losses of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers amounted to 222, namely—*Killed*: Lieutenant Somerville, 4 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 34 privates—total 42. *Wounded*: Colonel Lysons, C.B., Captains Drewe, Vane, and Poole, Lieutenants Dyneley, Luke O'Connor, Prevost, Millett, Beck, Hall-Dare, J. de Vic Tupper, Holden, Williamson, and Brigge, Sergeant-Major Smith, 12 sergeants, 2 drummers, 5 corporals, and 123 privates—total 157. *Missing*: 23 privates. Captain Poole, Lieutenants Dyneley, Beck, and Holden, and several men died of their wounds.¹

¹ The following appeared in regimental orders: “The Commanding Officer begs to thank the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers for the gallant manner in which they advanced from the fifth parallel on the 8th instant under an extremely heavy fire. He deeply feels the loss the corps has suffered, many old and tried soldiers having fallen. He views, moreover, with pride

Colonel Lysons, C.B., and Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury, C.B., were mentioned in General Codrington's dispatches.

The Lieutenant-General commanding the forces published an order in which he referred with great pleasure to the conduct of two men of the 23rd Regiment, named William Brown and Thomas Symonds, who brought in from the front a corporal of the 97th Regiment who had been severely wounded and left in a very exposed position, to which they went out most gallantly and humanely at the risk of their lives. He also, in wishing their names to be publicly noticed, desired that they might each receive a gratuity of £3.

On the night of the 9th of September loud explosions were heard and huge fires were seen in the town, and it soon became known that the Russians were retreating by the bridge over the Roadstead on the north side, and that the defences had been abandoned. The great "Siege of Sevastopol" was at an end and the fortress had fallen.

In October Colonel Lysons was appointed the determination of the younger men to preserve the character of the regiment that has hitherto been so celebrated ; it would be invidious where so many behaved gallantly to mention individuals, as many equally deserving have escaped notice. The Commanding Officer has, however, preserved a list of those whose names have been brought to his notice."

to the command of the second brigade of the Light Division, and the command of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury, C.B.

On the 13th of November two men of the regiment were killed by the explosion of the magazine of a French siege train.

1856. The regiment returned to England, arriving at Spithead on the 17th of July, 1856, whence it proceeded to Aldershot, where on the 31st of that month it was inspected by Her Majesty the Queen.

The total loss of the regiment during the Crimean War was :—

					Officers.	Other Ranks.
Killed	...	...	...	...	14	209
Died of wounds or disease				...	6	528
Missing	...	...	...	...	0	38
Total					20	775 ¹

The regiment was joined on the 23rd of July by the four reserve companies from Malta, and in the following November the four dépôt companies from Newport were amalgamated with it at Aldershot. In December 122 men

¹ A handsome column was erected to their memory at Carmarthen by the officers then serving or who had served in the regiment. The inhabitants of Chester also honoured their memory by placing a beautiful stained-glass window with a suitable inscription in St. Mary's Church in that city.

received their discharge on the reduction of the establishment.

1857. Colonel Lysons relinquished the command of the regiment in January 1857.

In the early part of the year the Queen sent to the regiment a goat to replace the one which had died in the Crimea.



1857

INFANTRY.

To face page 182.

CHAPTER XIII

1857. In 1857 the Royal Welsh Fusiliers left England in three divisions for active service in China; the first division under Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt in H.M.S. *Adventure*, the second under Lieutenant-Colonel Wells, in s.s. *Cleopatra*, and the third under Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, V.C., in H.M.S. *Melville*.

THE INDIAN MUTINY

The regiment was not destined to reach China. A special steamer was speeding from India towards Simon's Bay with the news of the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny, and bearing an urgent request to the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope to direct all vessels passing that place with troops on board to proceed to India with all dispatch.

The *Cleopatra* anchored off Calcutta on the 18th of September, where Lieutenant Luke O'Connor, V.C., who had come by the mail steamer, joined the division. The *Adventure* arrived the next day from Singapore. H.M.S. *Melville*, delayed by adverse winds, did not

arrive at Calcutta until the 18th of November, when Lieutenant-Colonel Bell's division at once disembarked and proceeded up country to join Headquarters. It did not reach Lucknow in time to share in the relief of the Residency, but it took part in all the subsequent operations.

The first section of the regiment immediately proceeded by rail to Raneegunge, and thence by bullock train to Allahabad. The Headquarters and last section left Calcutta on the 20th of October. On their way they left one company at Benares for the protection of the station until relieved by the next British corps.

On the 27th of October six companies of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers encamped under the walls of the fort at Allahabad.

On the 28th Major Bruce, with Captain Norton's company of the regiment, a company of the Royal Engineers and the Naval Brigade, the whole under the command of Captain Peel, R.N., proceeded by rail to Lohunga, 40 miles distant.

Captain Peel's force marched on the 2nd of November to Futtehpore, where Major Bruce's detachment was left to hold the camp whilst the rest made a forced march and attacked a considerable body of mutineers who had made a stand with three guns in the dry bed of an irrigation tank. A sharp action ensued, and the enemy was dispersed with much loss, losing at the same time two of his guns.

On the 3rd of November Brevet-Major Torrens's company moved by rail to Lohunga, accompanied by part of a battering train, ammunition, and stores for the force preparing to relieve the Lucknow Residency. This party was joined on the following day by the Headquarters, and two companies under Lieutenant-Colonel Wells, together with Captain Longdon's battery of artillery with mortars and the remainder of the reserve ammunition and arsenal stores.

RELIEF OF LUCKNOW RESIDENCY

The Residency at Lucknow was a cluster of houses and gardens on an area of a little more than 30 acres situated on a slight ridge overlooking the River Goomtee. Some 3,000 persons, of whom over 600 were European women and children, had sought refuge in it, and since the 30th of May it had been beset by about 60,000 rebels. The place, until its first relief by Generals Havelock and Outram, was defended by 900 British and about 700 Sepoys. One-fourth of the British were civilians, and the entire force was distributed among seventeen posts. For eighty-seven days they had held their assailants at bay, their own effective strength constantly diminishing. The undaunted defence of the Residency against such overwhelming odds is one of the glorious episodes in British history ;

but the glory of it had been dearly purchased with the loss of the high-minded, able, and intrepid Sir Henry Lawrence, and of a considerable number of other gallant officers and men.

Generals Havelock and Outram had fought their way to the Residency and reinforced its garrison; but they were not strong enough to undertake the task of conveying so large a number of women, children, servants, sick and wounded to a distant place of safety through a country swarming with armed mutineers. When Sir Colin Campbell (afterwards Lord Clyde) arrived in India to take the supreme military command, he determined to rescue the garrison and other occupants of the Residency, and it was to take part in this rescue that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were proceeding.

The convoy, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wells, having been augmented by a company of the 93rd Highlanders, marched on the 6th of November to join the force outside Lucknow, and on their arrival the 23rd and a part of the 82nd were constituted the FIFTH BRIGADE under the command of Brigadier-General Russell.

Sir Colin Campbell moved early in the morning of the 14th of November to seize the Dilkoosha Park—a large enclosed garden, surrounded by a wall 20 feet high—about two miles to the east of the Residency; and to

capture La Martinière College, so as to clear the way for the advance towards the object of the expedition.

As they approached the Dilkoosha the troops were met with round shot and a brisk musketry fire. This attack was not sustained for long, the enemy retiring to La Martinière, from which they were eventually driven out with great loss.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers then pushed forward and seized a village on the left front near the canal bank within short range of the "Bank's" bungalow held by the rebels. This was a movement of some importance, as it strengthened the left and protected the left front of the Dilkoosha, towards which the ordnance and commissariat stores were then moving slowly across difficult ground from the Alum Bagh.

Late in the afternoon the Royal Welsh Fusiliers moved into the La Martinière enclosures. About sunset, as arms and accoutrements were being piled, a sharp attack was made by the enemy, who was repulsed with loss by the FIFTH BRIGADE.

On this day three companies of the regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, with a detachment of the 82nd Regiment, arrived at the Dilkoosha, forming a welcome addition to the Fifth Brigade. Signals were exchanged with the Residency, and after dark a large bonfire was lighted on the roof of La Martinière, whilst

Captain Peel's rocket tubes were brought into play to scour the countryside.

The advance towards the Residency was continued on the 16th of November, the leading brigade being that commanded by Brigadier-General Adrian Hope of the 93rd Highlanders. The route from La Martinière led directly to the Secundra Bagh, a strong high-walled enclosure, thoroughly loopholed and flanked at the corners by circular towers. It was held by nearly 2,500 mutineers who offered a stubborn resistance, but the position was carried and its garrison totally destroyed. The 23rd did not participate in storming the place, but the FIFTH BRIGADE was moved up to a space of about 250 yards between it and a large loopholed "Serai." The brigade was exposed to the fire from the "Serai" and from adjacent villages, and both the 23rd and the 82nd suffered many casualties.

On the following day the FIFTH BRIGADE occupied the road leading to the barracks now held by a party of the 93rd. A continuous fire was poured upon the road and the barracks. Lieutenant Henderson of the 23rd was wounded. On the 18th of November Brigadier-General Russell was wounded, and Colonel Biddulph, of the Bengal Army, commanded the brigade until he was killed, when the command devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Hale, of the 82nd Regiment.

Colonel Hale led an attack upon the "Hospital" in front of the "D" bungalows. The thatched roof of the hospital having been set on fire by the enemy's shells, Colonel Hale and his party retired to the "D" bungalows.

This attack was witnessed by Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford, R.A., who reported an incident which led to the bestowal of the V.C. upon Lieutenant T. B. Hackett and Acting-Drummer Monger, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. In his report Colonel Crawford stated that he witnessed a most gallant and humane act performed by Lieutenant Hackett, H.M. 23rd Fusiliers, Lieutenant Harrington of Captain Boucher's Field Battery, Gunners John Ford and John Williams, and Band Boy George Monger, H.M. 23rd Fusiliers. A corporal of the 82nd was lying in the open ground badly wounded. Lieutenant Hackett called for volunteers to assist him in getting the corporal in. Lieutenant Harrington and Gunners Ford and Williams immediately came forward. They left the house, crossed the road, exposed to a heavy musketry fire, brought in the corporal, and with him Band Boy Monger, who had remained the whole time with and attended the wounded man, the boy bringing in the rifle of the corporal. It was, he added, a gallant act, and in his opinion deserving of good reward.

Communication having been established with the Residency, the British batteries on the 19th of November kept up a heavy fire on the Kaisar Bagh, under cover of which the removal of the non-combatants and the sick and wounded by the bank of the river to Secundra Bagh and thence to the Dilkoosha was safely effected. Preparations were then made for the withdrawal of the effectives of the Residency garrison, and the Commander-in-Chief requested that two officers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers should report to him when the garrison had passed to the rear. Lieutenants Monsell and Williamson were selected for this duty.

The time fixed for the withdrawal was between 10 and 11 o'clock on the night of the 22nd of November. It was arranged that the posts on the left of the Secundra Bagh should be held until the Residency garrison and the posts on the right had safely retired, followed by the Commander-in-Chief with his staff and the 93rd Highlanders in support. On receiving notice of this, Colonel Ewart's detachment in the barracks, was to retire by the rear of the "D" bungalows, giving notice as it passed by, when Colonel Hale and his brigade would also retire on La Martinière. In the meantime the Headquarters companies of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were to watch the front, and after allowing sufficient time for the

evacuation of the barracks and the "D" bungalows were also to retire on La Martinière.

This programme was carried out so quietly and in such perfect order that the enemy was quite unaware of any of the movements.

The FIFTH BRIGADE assembled in La Martinière soon after 1 a.m. on the 23rd of November. The enemy, still ignorant of the retirement, opened fire at daybreak on the old positions, but when they realized the fact they advanced some guns and opened fire on La Martinière. These were quickly silenced. On this day Brigadier-General Inglis of the 32nd Regiment, who had commanded the garrison at the Residency, took command of the Fifth Brigade, which left La Martinière on the next day and joined the forces at the Alum Bagh, where they were saddened by the news of the death from dysentery of the brave Havelock. He had expired just as he was being carried out of the battered defences of the Residency.

The casualties in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers during the operations for the relief of the Residency were three men killed one officer and twenty-two wounded.

The total casualties of Sir Colin Campbell's force amounted to 45 officers and 496 men.

The three companies under Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, V.C., which had arrived at

Calcutta in H.M.S. *Melville* on the 18th of November, joined the Headquarters at Alum Bagh on the 12th of December.

A portion of the regiment accompanied Sir Colin Campbell in his famous march from the Alum Bagh to Cawnpore with his huge convoy of 600 women and children and more than 1,000 sick and wounded, together with guns and baggage; and it was present at the destruction of the Gwalior contingent and the capture of the rebel camp near that place. Whilst guarding the captured camp it was attacked by a party of the enemy with three guns. Major Torrens with two companies, regardless of a sharp fire of grape, raced for the guns, and completely routed their assailants.

On the 24th of December the regiment marched with the force under Sir Colin Campbell towards Futtegharh and encamped at Chondeepore, halted on Christmas Day, marched through Pura to Arrown, and on the 28th proceeded with the troops under General Windham to the fort of Tatteeah, which was found evacuated by the rebels. The fort was blown up, and on the 31st the regiment marched to Tirooah.

1858. The regiment rejoined Sir Colin Campbell on the 1st of January, 1858, at Goorsala Gunge. On the 3rd of January it reached Futtegharh, from which the enemy had fled.

It remained at Futtehgarh until the 13th of January, when it was brigaded under Brigadier-General Walpole with two battalions of the Rifles, and together with an artillery battery of two guns under Captain Peel, R.N., and one squadron of the 6th Dragoons. This brigade marched to the Ramgunga, where it remained till the 31st of January, sending out piquets to watch the enemy who occupied the opposite side of the river.

The brigade left the Ramgunga on the 1st of February, and arrived at Cawnpore on the 11th of February, when the regiment was attached to the FIFTH BRIGADE under Brigadier-General Douglas. That brigade left Cawnpore on the 19th, and after a halt at Bussarat Gunge arrived at Bunteerah on the 27th. On the 2nd of March the regiment, with the 79th Highlanders, formed an escort for a heavy siege train, and marched at 11 p.m. from Bunteerah for the Park of Dilkoosha.

CAPTURE OF LUCKNOW

A division under Brigadier-General Walpole, composed of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 79th Highlanders, second and third battalions of the Rifles, and the 1st Bengal Fusiliers, left the Dilkoosha at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 6th of March and crossed the River Goomtee by a bridge of boats. This division formed part

of the force under Sir James Outram, to whom the attack on the side of Lucknow on the left bank of the Goomtee was entrusted.

It should be remembered that Lucknow was a city more than twenty miles in circumference. It was garrisoned by 130,000 fighting men, with an overwhelming force of artillery. The operations of the division, in which the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were included, were necessarily directed on a part only of the city.

An advance was made on the 9th of March, when the enemy was driven back through the wood on the right of the Fyzabad Road, and the regiment occupied the Badshah Bagh. It supplied covering and working parties to a battery which was being erected between the Badshah Bagh and the Goomtee, and on the 11th it advanced and after a sharp skirmish took possession of the street leading down to the Iron Bridge. In the action at the Iron Bridge Captain Prevost and Lieutenant Bushell were wounded.

On the 14th of March the regiment returned to the camp near the Chaker Kothi or Yellow House, and on the 16th Outram forced his way across the Iron Bridge, and the Residency, though crowded with Sepoys, was yielded with scarcely a shot being fired in its defence. Lieutenant Tobin, of the 23rd, was severely wounded in the early part of this action.

The regiment was engaged with the rest of

the brigade in driving the enemy beyond the Moosah Bagh, and it occupied that place on the 29th of March, relieving other regiments. On the 1st of April it moved into the Kaisar Bagh, and remained there until the 10th of September, and whilst there it supplied detachments for two other places. Her Majesty's goat died in the Kaisar Bagh.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wells was invalided to England at this time, and the command of the regiment devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt.

An order having been issued for the formation of a Second Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the service companies in India became the FIRST BATTALION and will hereafter be so termed.

On the 10th of September Headquarters and six companies under the command of Major Bulwer (Colonel Pratt being in temporary command of the infantry brigade) marched out of Lucknow to join the force under Colonel Purnell, C.B., at Nawabgunge Bara Bunkee. Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt having rejoined on the 17th of September, Major Bulwer returned to Lucknow to take command of the four companies which had been left there.

STAMPING OUT THE EMBERS OF THE MUTINY

Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt marched on the night of the 22nd of September with a force which

included 200 men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to the town of Selimpore, where the mutineers had collected in considerable numbers. On the approach of the British troops the enemy beat a hasty retreat.

As a large body of the enemy was in the neighbourhood of Selimpore, a column under Major Bulwer, of which 180 men of the FIRST BATTALION formed part, was dispatched from Lucknow to co-operate with Colonel Purnell in a combined movement. Major Bulwer's column finding the enemy entrenched near Selimpore, attacked and defeated them with much slaughter. Six hundred and fifty of the rebels were killed.

The Adjutant-General of the Army, in a report to the Government of India, conveyed the high opinion entertained by the Commander-in-Chief of the brilliant manner in which the operations reported upon by Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt and Major Bulwer were conducted, "more particularly that at Selimpore by Major Bulwer." The names of Captains Heigham and Norton, Lieutenant Gregorie, Ensign Willes and Assistant-Surgeon Morris were mentioned in dispatches.

Major Bulwer's force retired in the evening and encamped at Goorsaingunge, where, on the 1st of October, an outlying piquet repulsed a night attack by the enemy. On the 11th the column left Goorsaingunge, and whilst on the

march to Jubrowlee Lieutenant Tobin died of dysentery.

The enemy attacked the column in force on the 23rd of October, but was routed, losing 200 killed and wounded and four guns; the column lost a large number of the native cavalry. On the 26th of October the column marched to Poorwah, and whilst changing its position on the 29th it was suddenly attacked and some severe fighting took place. The enemy was eventually driven back with a loss of upwards of 600 killed and wounded; the native cavalry and infantry suffered greatly in this action also.

On the 31st of October Colonel Eveleigh, of the 20th Regiment, who had with him detachments of the 20th and 80th Regiments, joined the column and assumed the command.

The column left Poorwah on the 8th of November, leaving Major Bulwer with a company of Royal Welsh Fusiliers in charge of the camp. The enemy was encountered and attacked by the column near the village of Simree, and was dispersed with loss. The fort of Simree was stormed and carried on the following day. After destroying the fort the column resumed its march. It beat off an enemy attack on the 17th of November; it was joined the same day by Major Bulwer and the company from Poorwah, and on the 22nd it halted at Nuggar, two companies of the battalion under Captain

Monsell being sent on to Buxar Ghat on patrol duty.

On the 23rd of November the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Clyde, with the troops under his command, arrived at Nuggar, and on the 24th the whole force marched in the direction of Buxar Ghat, where it was joined by the two patrol companies. It proceeded to Doondee Khera, where, with a loss of eight men killed and several wounded, the enemy was defeated with considerable loss and several of his guns were captured.

The detachment of Royal Welsh Fusiliers that had been left behind at Lucknow joined Major Bulwer's party on the 5th of December as it marched through Nawabgunge Bara Bunkee with the Commander-in-Chief's army, and on the arrival of the army at Goniespore that evening the whole of the detached companies rejoined Headquarters, which had marched into Goniespore earlier in the day.

Lord Clyde moved his force on the 8th of December in the direction of Fyzabad, leaving the battalion behind with orders to cross the River Gogra and reconnoitre the country on the opposite bank. A draft of 248 men under Lieutenant Winstanley joined the battalion on the 9th of December.

1859. The battalion returned to Lucknow on the 15th of January, 1859, after having been

actively employed for over a month in scouring the surrounding country. It was stationed at Lucknow until the end of 1861. Assistant-Surgeon Morris, Lieutenant Wrench, and Brevet-Major Heigham died at Lucknow during this period.

1860. A draft of sixty-three rank and file under Ensigns Hutchinson and Adams joined the FIRST BATTALION on the 28th of October, 1860.

1861. The battalion marched from Lucknow on the 1st of December, 1861, *en route* to Fyzabad.

1862. It moved on the 3rd of December from Fyzabad to Agra, where it remained until 1865 and where it received two drafts from home. With the second draft came a goat presented by Her Majesty the Queen, in the place of the one that had died in the Kaisar Bagh.

Whilst at Agra the battalion took a prominent part in all the amusements at the station. At the annual race meeting in 1863, a race amongst the officers, who wore fancy dresses, was called the "St. David's Race," and it met with so much appreciation that it became one of the principal features of the annual regimental games.

1863. By a General Order dated the 3rd of September, Her Majesty was pleased to authorize the word "Lucknow" being borne on the colours

of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers for the "distinguished part" the regiment took in the relief of the Residency.

1865. The FIRST BATTALION moved from Agra to Jubbulpore, providing at the same time a detachment for Nagoda. In November 1865 it was joined by a draft from home.

1867. On the 26th of November, 1867, the battalion marched under Colonel Pratt, C.B., towards Bombay. It reached Poonah early in 1868, and in March of that year it proceeded to Bombay, where in April it received a further draft.

1869. In June 1869 the battalion—its term of Indian service having been completed—was called upon to furnish volunteers for regiments serving in India, and 1 sergeant, 3 corporals, 5 drummers, and 102 privates elected to stay, and were struck off the strength of the battalion.

On the 8th of October, 1869, the FIRST BATTALION, after a service in India of over twelve years, embarked at Bombay under Colonel Pratt, and sailed for England. It arrived at Portsmouth on the 9th of November and proceeded to Devonport, where it was joined by the dépôt companies.

CHAPTER XIV

THE SECOND BATTALION

1858. The mutiny in India having necessitated an increase in Her Majesty's Army, an Order was issued for the formation of a Second Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, to consist of 42 officers, 3 surgeons, 1 sergeant-major, 56 sergeants, 50 corporals, 24 drummers, and 950 privates. Four sergeants, 1 drummer, 43 rank and file, and 157 of the last joined recruits were transferred from the First Battalion to form the nucleus of the new battalion.

On the 9th of June recruiting parties were sent to Aberdare, Merthyr Tydfil, Carnarvon, Swansea, Oxford, and elsewhere. On the 23rd of September the establishment was filled up. Eighty-four recruits were raised at Headquarters, 115 in the Liverpool district, 105 in the London district, and 120 in the Bristol district. Volunteers were received from several Welsh county militias, but the militia contingents from Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, East Kent, Wiltshire, Donegal, and the Tower Hamlets were more

numerous. The total strength of the new battalion amounted to 1,218, special authority for the extra men having been granted.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, V.C., exchanged from the 14th Regiment, and took over the command of the SECOND BATTALION from Major Gubbins.

Detachments were stationed at Brecon and Cardiff until December, when the battalion moved to Aldershot.

1859. Early in 1859 the SECOND BATTALION was separated into ten service and two dépôt companies.

MALTA

The service companies of the SECOND BATTALION under Lieutenant-Colonel Bell and Major Gubbins proceeded to Malta, where they arrived in February.

On the 21st of December, 1859, colours were presented to the battalion at Malta by the Governor, Sir John Gaspard Le Marchant, K.T. In the course of his stirring address the Governor, after mentioning the past deeds of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, referred to the battle of Waterloo in these terms: "No corps probably on the ground was more proudly distinguished than your own, and certainly no military body could have more brilliantly resisted the repeated charges of the cuirassiers of the Imperial Guard than your gallant regiment. That deed was then the theme of admiration, and it must ever be, so long as

your corps lasts, a subject of pride to all, and a point of emulation to every young soldier who finds himself enrolled under your colours." Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, in reply, accepted with pleasure the responsibilities of the vast inheritance of renown entrusted to the safe-keeping of the Royal Welsh.

CANADA

1866. The SECOND BATTALION proceeded to Canada in 1866. The Snider breech-loader rifle was issued to the battalion, but no breech-loading ball ammunition was supplied with the new weapons. This was particularly awkward, inasmuch as soon after its arrival in Canada the battalion was told off into columns to operate against an expected Fenian attack from a camp in the Malone Hills on the American shore of the St. Lawrence; had the attack taken place recourse would have had to be made to the Canadian Militia's store of old muzzle-loaders.

1867. The battalion embarked for England on the 16th of October under the command of Major the Hon. S. Mostyn, and after its arrival at Portsmouth was distributed to Newport (Mon.), Brecon, and Cardiff.

1869. The SECOND BATTALION moved from Newport to Aldershot on the 14th of May, 1869, where it was attached to the First Brigade under

Major-General Lysons, C.B., an old commanding officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Before leaving Newport the officers were entertained at a banquet by the County of Monmouth and the Borough of Newport, and a handsome silver kettle was presented to the officers' mess by the High Sheriff. Shortly afterwards a silver inkstand was sent to the mess by "many and sincere friends" made by the detachment quartered at Brecon.

Colonel Bell, V.C., after having served uninterruptedly in the regiment for close upon twenty-eight years, retired, and on the 1st of September Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Savage Mostyn was promoted to the command of the SECOND BATTALION.

1870. Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, C.B., retired from active service on the 30th of September, 1870, and was succeeded in the command of the FIRST BATTALION by Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. Prevost.

The FIRST BATTALION left Devonport in October. Headquarters and five companies went to Newport under Lieutenant-Colonel Prevost, and five companies under Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Elgee were stationed at Brecon.

A detachment of the SECOND BATTALION left Aldershot for Gravesend, and the Headquarters

and the rest of the battalion proceeded to Chatham, where it was joined by the depôt of the Second Battalion of the 21st Royal North British (now Royal Scots) Fusiliers.

War having been declared between France and Prussia, England, mindful of her treaty obligation to defend the neutrality of Belgium, increased her Army by 20,000 men; and the strength of the SECOND BATTALION, which now numbered only 460 rank and file, was raised to 750.

In May of this year the number of lieutenants on the establishment was reduced from twelve to ten, and the number of ensigns from eight to four. The surgeon-major and assistant-surgeon were no longer borne on the strength of a regiment, but were attached to it for duty.

1871. The FIRST BATTALION moved to Pembroke Dock. A detachment of the SECOND BATTALION proceeded to the Isle of Grain, where it was employed by the Royal Engineers on work at the fort. In August the SECOND BATTALION, with the depôt of the 21st, moved to Woolwich. At the end of that month it supplied a detachment under Major Hackett, V.C., for duty at Windsor, whilst the Grenadier Guards were engaged at the autumn manœuvres.

At an inspection of the SECOND BATTALION by the Duke of Cambridge, His Royal Highness

complimented the battalion on the "perfection" of its bayonet exercise.

1872. Her Majesty the Queen presented a goat to the FIRST BATTALION to replace the one which had died at Newport.

On the 3rd of August the dépôt of the 21st left the SECOND BATTALION to join its own regiment in Scotland.

At the close of the autumn manœuvres on Salisbury Plain the SECOND BATTALION proceeded to Ireland, the Headquarters being stationed at Mullingar.

CHAPTER XV

ASHANTEE

1873. The King of Ashantee invaded the territory of tribes friendly to Britain, and held captive several British subjects, both European and native. It was therefore determined to send out an expedition under Sir Garnet Wolseley, of which the **SECOND BATTALION** was to form a part, to punish the Ashantees and to liberate the captives.

The battalion received 100 men from the First Battalion and marched to Curragh Camp, whence it travelled by rail to Queenstown.

A spontaneous and highly gratifying tribute was paid to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers on their departure from The Curragh. The whole of the troops in camp—the 12th, 27th, and 57th Regiments, the Royal Engineers, and the Royal Artillery—turned out, every man bearing a lighted torch. A continuous avenue was thus formed from the camp to the station, through which the battalion, headed by the massed bands of all the regiments, marched to the troop train.

On the 21st of November the battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Savage Mostyn, embarked at Queenstown on board H.M.S. *Tamar*, and sailed for Cape Coast Castle, on the West Coast of Africa.

The strength of the battalion was 31 officers and 650 non-commissioned officers and men. The officers were: Lieutenant-Colonel Mostyn, in command; Majors Millet and Hackett, V.C.; Brevet-Majors Luke O'Connor, V.C., and J. de Vic Tupper; Captains Hutchinson, Williamson, Morgan, Hutton, Luxford, and Roe; Lieutenants Graves, Hutton, Shepherd, Gilbert, Cowan, the Hon. D. De'Moleyns, Johnson, Palk, Boyle, Bernard, Mainwaring, Griffiths, Clough, Lieutenant and Adjutant Phibbs; Quartermaster McCormick; Paymaster-Major Leet; Surgeon-Major Alder, Surgeon Bolton. The following officers were attached for duty: Lieutenant Barton (7th Fusiliers), Lieutenant Auckinleck (21st Fusiliers), and Lieutenant Lip-trott (104th Fusiliers).

The *Tamar* arrived at Cape Coast Castle on the 29th of December, but finding that the arrangements for landing were not completed she sailed out on a short cruise.

1874. The troopship returned on the 5th of January, 1874, and the battalion disembarked on the following day.

Ever since the first arrival of troops at Cape

Coast Castle the Transport Department had experienced considerable difficulty in collecting carriers for the baggage. A sufficient number for the use of the battalion was obtained from the friendly tribe of Fantees, but more than half of these deserted during the night of the 5th of January. Enough, however, remained for the half-battalion, which was disembarked at Amoaful. Here progress was again checked owing to the coolies with the main army having deserted all along the line, and the carriers of the half-battalion were requisitioned to replace the deserters. The detachment was therefore obliged to return and re-embark at Cape Coast Castle.

The disappointment occasioned by these untoward checks was most keenly felt, and the entire battalion—officers and men—volunteered to act as carriers for the force. It was, however, not deemed advisable to accept this offer.

On the 15th of January the Headquarters and 100 rank and file, under Lieutenant-Colonel Mostyn, proceeded to the front, where it took part in the march through a dense, unhealthy forest jungle, and in repelling the attacks of countless unseen enemies; and it was present at the assault and capture of Coomassie, which practically ended the campaign.

Four companies, under Major Millet, proceeded up country as far as Ahsam Coomassie

in charge of a large convoy of provisions, etc., carried by native carriers, and after the completion of this duty returned to the coast.

Some idea of the nature of the operations may be gathered from the following extracts from Sir Garnet Wolseley's order which was promulgated prior to the re-embarkation of the force on the termination of hostilities: "After five days' very hard fighting under trying conditions, your courage and devotion have been rewarded with complete success. . . . In the first phase of this war the Ashantee army was driven back from the Fantee country into its own territory ; since then you have penetrated through dense forests defended at many points with the greatest obstinacy. You have repeatedly defeated a very numerous and courageous enemy fighting on his own ground in well-selected positions. . . . England may justly be proud of having such soldiers, sailors, and marines, as I am of having had the honour of commanding you throughout the campaign."¹

The casualties of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were—*Killed*: Two privates. *Wounded*: Lieutenant Hutton, severely, Lieutenant and Adjutant Phibbs, slightly, and five privates. Six officers

¹ One of the Vice-Presidents of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, Major-General Robert Owen-Jones, C.B., was engaged in road and bridge construction in the Ashantee campaign as a captain of Royal Engineers.

and a large number of men were invalided from the effects of the climate; one of the former, Lieutenant Johnson, a very promising officer, died on board the troop-ship and was buried at sea.

The names of Lieutenant-Colonel Mostyn, Captain Hutton, Lieutenant Hutton, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Phibbs were mentioned in dispatches. A C.B. was bestowed on Lieutenant-Colonel Mostyn, Captain Hutton received a brevet majority, and Lieutenant Phibbs was promoted captain in the 54th Regiment. Medals for "distinguished conduct in the field" were awarded to Colour-Sergeant Elphick, Sergeant Attiwell, and Private Gunnings. Her Majesty's goat of the Second Battalion died at Tagnation.

The battalion embarked for home on the 20th of February, and arrived a month later at Portsmouth. It received an enthusiastic reception at Portsmouth, where the Mayor presented the battalion with a goat which had been obtained from Wales. Colonel Mostyn, in a short speech, accepted the gift as a mark of the good feeling of the people of Portsmouth, at the same time intimating that it could not be called "the regimental goat," as that was always the gift of Her gracious Majesty the Queen. This goat lived with the Second Battalion for many years, and was always on most amicable terms with his "Royal" brother.

The SECOND BATTALION was inspected at Shorncliffe by H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief, who on behalf of the Queen thanked it for its gallant services, for the perseverance displayed in a victorious march through pathless jungles and deadly swamps, and for the courage exhibited at every step by those of the battalion. "I am sorry, Colonel Mostyn," he added, "that the whole of your regiment was not able to participate in the final operations; but you and your men and your officers well know, as soldiers, that the exigencies of the service sometimes render it impossible to gratify all that brave hearts and arms desire: it is enough to know that those of the regiment who did go up country kept up the glorious old reputation of the Royal Welsh. . . . I have been given to understand that the battalion landed as invalided, but I may safely say that, though I have watched over the Army for many years, I never saw a regiment look more soldier-like."

A memorial tablet to the memory of the officers and men who died serving their country during the Ashantee campaign was placed by their comrades of all ranks in Wrexham Church.

The FIRST BATTALION left Pembroke Dock on the 20th of July, 1873, for the autumn manœuvres on Dartmoor, proceeding at their

close to Aldershot, where it was attached to the Third Brigade under Brigadier-General Herbert, C.B., who had himself served for many years with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

The FIRST BATTALION on the 12th of March, 1874, lined the streets on the occasion of the public entry into London of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.

On the 19th of May both battalions took part in a review at Aldershot in honour of the Tsar of Russia. When the Royal party arrived opposite the Royal Welsh Fusiliers the Tsar noticed the tattered colours of the First Battalion, carried proudly by Lieutenants Clough-Taylor and Evans. Turning to the Duke of Cambridge His Imperial Majesty inquired the reason of the colours being in such a ragged condition, and he was informed that they were the colours which had been borne by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers throughout the Crimean War. The Tsar saluted the colours and passed on.

The troops at Shorncliffe were inspected by the Duke of Cambridge on the 1st of October. After the inspection His Royal Highness ordered the SECOND BATTALION, which was under orders to proceed to Gibraltar, to be closed on the two centre companies, and addressed it as follows:—

“Colonel Mostyn, Officers, and Men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. As this is most probably the last occasion I shall see you before your

departure from England on foreign service, I cannot let you leave without expressing my entire—yes, my entire—approbation of your conduct and discipline whilst serving in England. Whether it is the commanding officer, the adjutant, the non-commissioned officers or men, I cannot say, but wherever the praise may be due you are a pattern to regiments, and I am very sorry to lose you and hope soon to see you home again.”

The battalion arrived at Gibraltar on the 17th of October.

1875. On the 16th of March, 1875, General Sir W. Codrington was transferred to the command of the Coldstream Guards, and Lieutenant-General C. Crutchley was appointed to succeed him as colonel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Sir W. Codrington wrote to the commanding officer of each battalion a letter in which he stated: “Her Majesty having been pleased to transfer my name from the colonelcy of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers to that of the Coldstream Guards in which I formerly served for many years, my immediate connection thus ceases with the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers; but though it ceases in form and fact, it ceases not in recollection of the First Brigade of the Light Division of the Crimea, of which the 23rd Regiment formed a part, under my com-

mand. Those were times of earnest preparation of hard fighting, of success, of sickness, of difficulties ; but on all occasions, whether in the earlier battles or the hard work of the trenches and assaults, the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, with a strong regimental feeling, maintained the high character it had always borne. It was gratifying to me when Her Majesty gave me an honourable peace connection as colonel of a regiment with which I had seen more serious service. It is with a feeling of regret on my part that the connection must cease, but my interest can never cease in the well-being and credit of a regiment with which I was so long and intimately connected by service in the field."

1876. The FIRST BATTALION having left Aldershot on the 4th of October, 1875, for Cork, was distributed to various stations in Ireland, and in the following year was quartered in Dublin.

Her Majesty's sanction was accorded on the 1st of November, 1876, to the word "Ashantee" being borne on the regimental colours of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in commemoration of the services of the SECOND BATTALION during the Ashantee Expedition of 1873-4.

1877. At a brigade parade on the Almeda, Gibraltar, on the 30th of November, 1877, Privates Cox, Kirby, and Doznin, of the Second

Battalion, were presented with the Silver Medal and Private Houghton with the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society, for saving life from a Spanish gunboat which had been upset by a squall during a dark night in Catalan Bay. The soldier-like conduct of Sergeant G. Morris who was in charge of the guard on this occasion was "warmly approved" by the Governor, Lord Napier of Magdala.

CHAPTER XVI

THE "Brigade Dépôt" system having been introduced, very fine barracks were built at Wrexham at a cost of £30,000, and here the permanent dépôt of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was established under the title of the "23rd Brigade Dépôt." The dépôt was formed of two companies of each battalion of the regiment under the command of Colonel C. Elgee. They arrived at Wrexham on the 17th of August, 1877.

1878. Owing to the threatening aspect of affairs occasioned by the treaty concluded at San Stefano at the end of the Russo-Turkish War, the Government deemed it necessary to demonstrate their determination to safeguard British interests; and in April 1878 twelve thousand Indian troops were ordered to Malta, and the whole of the Army and Militia reserves in the United Kingdom were called out for service with the colours.

Two hundred and fifty-two men from the Army reserve and 274 from the Militia reserve

joined the FIRST BATTALION at Enniskillen, bringing up its strength to 2 field officers, 8 captains, 12 subalterns, and 1,071 other ranks.

After the signing of the Treaty of Berlin the native troops returned to India and the Reserves were demobilized, the First Battalion being reduced by 3 sergeants, 15 corporals, 1 drummer, and 510 privates.

On demobilization Colonel Prevost was presented with an Address by the Town Commissioners of Enniskillen, testifying to their "high appreciation of the orderly, steady good conduct, and soldier-like bearing of the men of the Reserve during their stay."

1879. The SECOND BATTALION remained at Gibraltar during 1879, and in May of this year the FIRST BATTALION left Enniskillen for Woolwich. In June four companies under Major Shadwell left Woolwich to take up the duties of the Guards at the Tower of London.

Major-General E. W. D. Bell, V.C., died on the 10th of November whilst in command of the Belfast District, and was succeeded in that command by Major-General Torrens, C.B., late of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

1880. The SECOND BATTALION having returned from Gibraltar, the officers of the two battalions for the first time dined together on St. David's Day, 1880. There was on that occasion a very large muster of past and present

“Royal Welshmen,” and it included many highly distinguished names.

On the 21st of June Colonel Prevost retired from active service, and the command of the FIRST BATTALION devolved upon Colonel C. Elgee.

The service of four companies at the Tower ended on the 23rd of July, and on the 29th of that month the FIRST BATTALION was suddenly ordered to proceed to India, owing to the disturbance in Afghanistan. Its strength was augmented by 138 men from the Second Battalion and 38 men from the Brigade dépôt.

Before leaving Woolwich the battalion was inspected by Major-General J. Turner, C.B., who expressed himself as “extremely pleased with the rapidity with which the battalion had been got ready for active service,” and added that “he felt great sorrow in saying farewell to the battalion, as he had never had under his command so well-behaved, smart, and well-drilled a regiment.”

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS BY H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

Previous to their embarkation at Portsmouth on the 16th of August, new colours were presented to the FIRST BATTALION by H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales. The colours were consecrated by the chaplain of the

garrison at Portsmouth, and His Royal Highness handed them to Lieutenants Evans and Carey, who received them kneeling. The Prince then addressed the battalion as follows:—

“Colonel Elgee, Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers,— I consider it a very great privilege to have been asked to present your regiment with new colours on the eve of your departure for India. It occurs to me, in performing this gratifying ceremony, that the colours I hand to you are to replace those which were given you thirty-one years ago by my lamented father, colours which during three campaigns your regiment carried with honour and success. You will in a few years celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of your formation. During that long period your regiment has served in nearly every quarter of the globe, seeing as much real service, perhaps, as any regiment in the Army within the limits of the present century. I easily call to mind ‘Egypt,’ ‘The Peninsula,’ and ‘Waterloo’; while coming down to more modern times we have ‘The Crimea,’ ‘India,’ and ‘Ashantee.’ I know the distinguished character of the regiment, and I feel sure that those now in its ranks will seek to emulate what has been done in the past, and therefore I feel certain that its good name will continue to be maintained as pre-eminent as it is now. On the eve of your

departure for India, nobody can wish you more heartily than I do 'God-speed,' and I feel sure that whatever service you may be called upon to perform will be carried out in a way to bring fresh credit for the courage and steadfastness for which the name of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers has ever been so justly celebrated."

Colonel Elgee made a suitable reply, and afterwards each officer was presented to His Royal Highness.

The Prince expressed a wish that the old colours might be kept by him at Marlborough House. They were accordingly taken on board the Royal yacht and a guard of the Royal Marines placed over them.

The battalion then embarked on H.M. troop-ship *Malabar*, which sailed at 3 p.m., escorted for about an hour on one side by the *Osborne* with their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on board, and on the other by the Duke of Edinburgh on board his yacht. On parting company the Royal yachts respectively signalled "God-speed" and "Farewell."

The FIRST BATTALION on embarkation numbered the lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, 6 captains, 12 subalterns, 2 staff, a paymaster, and 889 other ranks.

Three men were lost from heat apoplexy in the Red Sea. On its arrival in India, in

September, the battalion proceeded from Deolali to Jubbulpore, where it relieved the Royal Scots. The Royal goat died at Jubbulpore.

1881. The battalion arrived at Chakrata, N.W.P., on the 13th of March, 1881, having marched from Jubbulpore, a distance of 706 miles, in 72 days. Two men died on the march.

Colonel the Hon. Savage Mostyn, C.B., who returned from Gibraltar in February 1880 with the SECOND BATTALION, relinquished its command in the following April, and was appointed to the command of the 23rd Regimental District. In his farewell address he expressed his feeling of very deep regret at parting from the battalion, and assured them that he would always look back upon the twenty-seven years that he had been in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as the happiest days of his life. He hoped that all ranks would do their utmost to uphold the *esprit de corps* which had gained the Welsh Fusiliers the very great name they had always borne, so that when their services were again required in the field they might be found what they were then—one of, if not *the* smartest and most efficient regiment in Her Majesty's service.

Colonel Luke O'Connor, V.C., succeeded Colonel Mostyn in the command of the SECOND BATTALION.

1881. In July 1881 the infantry of the Line and Militia were directed to be organized in territorial regiments, each consisting of four battalions in England and Wales and of five in Ireland, the first and second of these to be Line battalions and the remainder Militia; the regiments to bear a territorial designation corresponding to the localities with which they are connected, and the words "Regimental District" were in future to be used instead of "Sub-district."

The regiment thereby ceased to be the "Twenty-third," and the following became its precedence, composition, title, and uniform as a territorial regiment:—

"*Precedence*, 23; *Title*, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers; *Composition*, First Battalion 23rd Foot, Second Battalion 23rd Foot, Third, Royal Denbigh and Merioneth Militia, Fourth, Royal Carnarvon Militia. *Headquarters* or *Regimental Dépôt*, Wrexham; *Uniform*, scarlet, facings blue, lace rose."

It was part of the new scheme that the regiment should be called "The North Wales Regiment," but the Earl of Powis, a Vice-President of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodion (afterwards for many years its President), being jealous of the old title, brought the matter before the House of Lords, asking indignantly, "What has this splendid regiment done to forfeit

its glorious old name of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers?" Owing to this intervention the old name was preserved, and the Earl of Powis earned for himself the abiding gratitude of all past, present, and future "Royal Welsh."

A goat presented by Her Majesty the Queen to the FIRST BATTALION, in the place of the one which died at Jubbulpore in 1880, accompanied a draft which proceeded to India with Major R. F. Williamson on the 22nd of November.

The SECOND BATTALION, under the command of Colonel Luke O'Connor, V.C., moved to Pembroke Dock at the end of November 1881, and was quartered there for the next two years.

The death of Colonel James de Vic Tupper on the 23rd of December, 1881, was deeply deplored, and a tablet to his memory was placed in Wrexham Church.

1882. At the inspection of the FIRST BATTALION at Chakrata in April 1882, Sir Donald Stewart, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief in India, said to Colonel Elgee: "Yours is a magnificent battalion, one of the finest bodies of men I have ever seen. The barracks, etc., are perfect." A month later Lieutenant-General Sir R. O. Bright, K.C.B., commanding the division, congratulated Colonel Elgee and the officers on the satisfactory condition of the battalion as

regards its appearance, health, and drill ; adding, " I feel sure that wherever you go you will find it hard to get a regiment to beat you."

The inscription on the colours of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers of the victories of " Blenheim," " Ramillies," " Oudenarde," " Malplaquet," and " Dettingen " was authorized by Her Majesty's commands issued on the 16th of June and the 22nd of October, 1882.

On the 31st of October the FIRST BATTALION moved by route march from Chakrata, N.W.P., to Dum Dum, Bengal.

1883. It reached Dinapore on the 14th of January, 1883, having covered the 871 miles from Chakrata in 76 days, and there took train to Dum Dum. Her Majesty's goat died in May at Dum Dum..

Two goats were received in September by the Second Battalion, from Windsor. One was forwarded to the First Battalion in India.

On the 20th of November the SECOND BATTALION left Pembroke Dock for Ireland, where it remained for some years.

1884. The FIRST BATTALION took part in December 1884 in the reception at Calcutta of the Earl of Dufferin, the new Viceroy of India.

1885. A draft of 2 sergeants and 142 men, under Captain Mainwaring and Lieutenant Vyvyan, joined the FIRST BATTALION at Dum

Dum in April 1885. Colonel Luke O'Connor, V.C., retired from active service on the 26th of June, 1885, and was succeeded in the command of the SECOND BATTALION by Colonel James Williamson.

In his farewell order Colonel O'Connor stated that he felt most keenly having to leave the distinguished regiment which he had the good fortune when quite a young man to join. "It will be with pride," he said, "that I can look back and remember that I had the good luck to share in many of the brilliant campaigns and battles of the regiment in different parts of the world, for which I received many honours and decorations, and, above all, that I attained the proud position of commanding a battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers."

Owing to complications in regard to the Russo-Afghan boundary, telegraphic instructions were received for the FIRST BATTALION to prepare for active service in Afghanistan, and it was ordered to form part of the First Army Corps destined for the Pishin Valley. The storm, however, passed over, and the order for service was countermanded.

Colonel Elgee retired from active service early in 1885, and the command of the First Battalion devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel J. Tilly.

CHAPTER XVII

BURMAH

IN consequence of strained relations between the King of Burmah and the Government of India, the FIRST BATTALION Royal Welsh Fusiliers and other regiments received orders in October 1885 to prepare for immediate embarkation.

On the 2nd of November the battalion marched to Calcutta, where it was included in the Bengal Brigade under the command of Brigadier-General F. B. Norman, C.B., which was to form part of the Burmah Expeditionary Force under Major-General H. Prendergast, C.B., V.C.

A depôt of 130 men, most of whom were unfit for active service, was left at Dum Dum, and on embarkation the battalion consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel John Tilly, Major R. F. Williamson, Captains R. B. Mainwaring and F. Morris, 11 subalterns, and 732 other ranks.

The battalion was the first European corps to arrive at Rangoon, which it left on the 8th of November and reached Thayetmyo, the rendez-

vous on the British frontier, on the 14th, after a somewhat tedious voyage up the River Irrawaddy.

A Burmese war vessel was descried steaming slowly down the river. The *alarm* was sounded from the Headquarter ship, and orders were issued for the troops to line the bank of the river in anticipation of an attack by the enemy. Presently, the white flag of St. George was seen hoisted *above* the Green Dragon of King Theebaw. The on-coming vessel was a war steamer, sent down by the King to reconnoitre the British advance, but it had been cut out from under the protection of the guns of the fort at Singbougweh by a party of bluejackets in a steam launch under Lieutenant Trench, R.N. A guard of Royal Welsh Fusiliers under Lieutenant C. Lysons was placed on the captured steamer.

The flotilla of twenty-eight vessels, most of them having a large barge on each side containing the Expeditionary Force, left Thayetmyo early in the morning of the 15th of November, and having crossed the frontier line at 4 p.m., anchored for the night in Burmese water.

Brigadier-General Norman had a narrow escape on this day. He was resting with some of his staff on the river-bank when a body of the enemy suddenly appeared and fired a volley into the party, and as suddenly disappeared without doing any damage.

The FIRST BATTALION, with 9-1 Cinque Ports Division Royal Artillery (Mountain Battery), under the immediate command of Brigadier-General Norman, landed on the left bank of the river on the 16th of November, with orders to attack and destroy the fort of Singbougweh, which was situated on rising ground some distance inland. The remainder of the force proceeded up river towards Fort Minlah. When General Norman's force arrived through the jungle within 300 or 400 yards of its objective, a panic seized the garrison, which fled from the fort *en masse*. A couple of shells were fired into the stockade, one of which set fire to some of the houses, and when the troops entered the fort it was found deserted by all except the Phoongyes, who had refused to leave their temples. These priests were treated with respect, and their temples were not molested; but the stockade was burnt. The force then returned to the river and re-embarked.

The battalion proceeded up river, and arrived on the 17th of November at Fort Minlah, just as that fort and Kole Kone Fort on the left bank were stormed and taken by the British and Native infantry. These two forts, one on the right bank and the other on the left, were very strong masonry forts mounting several heavy guns commanding long reaches up and down the river, and had they been held by resolute men

could not have been taken without heavy loss. As it was, the loss on our side was small, but that of the Burmese was considerable, many of whom were drowned in their mad rush into the river whilst endeavouring to escape.

On the 18th of November the Expeditionary Force was formed into brigades. The THIRD BRIGADE, under the command of Brigadier-General Norman, consisted of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the 2nd and 11th Bengal Native Infantry.

Four days later the entire force anchored off Pagan, after the fort there had been shelled and destroyed by H.M.I.M.S. *Irrawaddy*, the pioneer vessel of the flotilla.

The expedition slowly advanced, destroying numerous forts on both banks, and arrived on the 23rd of November at Myngyan, where a large force of the enemy, said to number over 5,000, with several guns, had entrenched themselves. At 5 p.m. the flotilla was halted about half a mile from the town and the entrenchments were shelled, the enemy returning the fire with vigour, but without skill, our casualties being only one bluejacket and one Marine, wounded.

On the 25th of November the First and Third Brigades were landed to assault the town. The place was, however, found deserted. The entrenchments, which were strongly built

and remarkably well planned, were said to be the work of one of the Burmese princes who had been for several terms a cadet at Woolwich.

Shortly after noon on the following day an armed steamer, carrying 9 guns and 95 Burmese soldiers, was captured by the Naval Brigade.

About 5 p.m. a gilded state barge, manned by 54 rowers, appeared, flying two large white flags. It brought two envoys from Mandalay, one of whom presented to General Prendergast a letter from King Theebaw, asking for an armistice in order that a treaty might be entered into for resuming intercourse between the two nations. General Prendergast declined to grant an armistice; but said that if the King would surrender himself, his army and his capital, and if the European residents in Mandalay were all found uninjured in person and property, the King's life would be spared and his family respected. The General requested a reply by 4 o'clock the next morning.

No answer having been received at the stated time, the flotilla proceeded to Ava. Shortly after 10 a.m. the steamers were drawn up within range of the forts and preparations for landing were made. Two hours' grace were allowed to the inhabitants before commencing the assault.

"It was a curious sight," wrote an eye-witness, "to see those armies facing each other for the period of grace to pass. On the one side a long

line of ships whose big guns were loaded and run out ready for the command to fire, their sides massed with armed men silent in their ardour and impatience to land and meet the enemy at last. On the other, the bank of the river, scarcely a pistol-shot distant, lined with thousands of Burmese soldiers, carrying every description of arm from the native spear and dah to the Italian Martini rifle, lying carelessly about laughing and smoking."

As the hours of grace were on the point of expiring, the gilded state barge hove in sight, and once more the Ministers of King Theebaw were received on board the Headquarter ship. They handed to the general a telegram from the Council of State accepting the terms of unconditional surrender.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers at once landed and proceeded to the redoubt to superintend the disarmament. Five Burmese regiments marched out after laying down their arms, but it was conjectured that upwards of 2,000 of the garrison, who were destined afterwards to give much trouble as "Dacoits," had fled into the country carrying their arms with them. The guns, arms, and ammunition having been placed on board ship, the battalion re-embarked.

The flotilla reached Mandalay at noon, and the force disembarked and proceeded by different routes to the palace, about two miles away from

the town. During the march there and back the populace turned out to see the troops pass by. They showed no signs of animosity; on the contrary, they laughed and joked amongst themselves and with the British soldiers, who seem to have a happy knack of being able to make themselves understood in whatever country they may be serving.

The deportation of King Theebaw having been decided on, a brigade composed of the mounted corps, 9-1 Cinque Ports R.A., FIRST BATTALION Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and the 23rd Madras Infantry, under the command of Brigadier-General Norman, escorted the King from the palace to the steamship *Thooreah*, where he was placed under the charge of Colonel Le Mesurier with the Headquarters company of the King's Liverpool Regiment. A company of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers formed the King's personal escort, the rest of the brigade lining the streets.

During the next ten days the force was engaged in scouring the surrounding country, searching the towns for arms, and pacifying the people.

On the 11th of December the FIRST BATTALION, a party of bluejackets, and two guns of the Hazara Mountain Battery accompanied Brigadier-General Norman to Shemnagar, and on the following day they disembarked and, leaving two companies of the Royal Welsh

Fusiliers under Captain Morris in charge of the ship, marched to Shwebo, where they arrived without any serious opposition on the 15th of December. Having proceeded to Kyouk Myoung, they boarded a steamer sent forward to meet them at that place.

Three steamers arrived on the 19th from Mandalay with General Prendergast and a force destined for Bhamo.

Hereafter the battalion was split up into numerous detachments, some of which were commanded by sergeants, for service in various parts of the country, nor was it re-united until, its term of Burmese service having expired, it returned to India in March 1887.

Bhamo was occupied without resistance. A strong force, of which two companies of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers under Captain Mainwaring formed a part, was left to garrison the place. Lieutenant C. Lysons with the F Company garrisoned the village and stockade at Htigyaing until the 6th of February, when they returned to Mandalay.

The battalion furnished a guard of honour of one hundred men at the palace on the arrival of the Viceroy of India at Mandalay. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Frederick Roberts, G.C.B., V.C., who accompanied the Viceroy, was pleased to express his great satisfaction at the appearance and smartness of the guard.

On the 3rd of March the Headquarters left Mandalay for Bhamo, where it arrived on the 11th of that month.

Excellent work was performed by the several detachments of the battalion. It included assisting in clearing the country of Dacoits, repair of the line and re-opening of telegraphic communication between Mandalay and Myngyan, hard marching through a disaffected region, some pretty severe fighting by a force of which Lieutenant Cole's detachment of fifty men formed part. That detachment, after returning to Mandalay, was sent to augment the garrison of Kyouksai. Casualties, hardships, and incessant marches in the heat of the day so diminished Lieutenant Cole's party that barely twenty men of the original detachment marched eventually to Mandalay. Major-General Prendergast spoke in the highest terms of the work done by the detachment, and Lieutenant Cole's name was mentioned in dispatches.

1886. During January and February 1886 the force at Bhamo was actively engaged in repairing the stockade, digging entrenchments, and constructing earthworks, whilst flying columns frequently scoured the surrounding country.

A report having been received that Mogoung, an important town on the border of Yunan, was threatened by a large body of Chinese, a force consisting of mounted infantry, three guns of

the Hazara Mountain Battery, two companies of Royal Welsh Fusiliers, one company of the 25th Madras Infantry, and a party of Bengal sappers, was dispatched to Mogoung on the 13th of February under the command of Major Mainwaring, R.W.F. Their route was beset with almost insurmountable difficulties, but these were all overcome by the undaunted energies of the men, which their commander and his officers knew so well how to foster and direct.

Some idea of the unusual nature of this difficult march may be gleaned from the following extract from Brigadier-General Norman's report : "All the troops had to rough it more or less and behaved admirably, but the hardest work fell upon the men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers ; whether they were employed in cutting a road through the thick jungle, pulling boats round rocks, or stripping and jumping into the water to haul a boat up or to lower it down a rapid, the manner in which they worked gained commendation from all officers with the force and fairly astonished the villagers and boatmen."

The force occupied the Mogoung district without resistance. Reconnaissances were made and the country explored ; and on the 25th of March the expedition returned to Bhamo.

Major Mainwaring was highly commended by Brigadier-General Norman on his conduct of

political and military duties, and his name was mentioned in dispatches.

The troops dispatched on the 5th of April from Bhamo to Choung Dauk included fifty men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers under Captain Lyle and Lieutenant Jervis. Some sharp fighting took place in the passes, where the enemy was strongly posted, during which several men and officers were wounded, including Captain Wace, R.A., and Captain Lyle. The force was compelled to retire to Mansi. Captain Lyle's name was mentioned in dispatches, and the newly established "Distinguished Service Order" was conferred upon him. Lieutenant Jervis's name was also mentioned in dispatches.

Brigadier-General Norman on being recalled to India published a farewell address in Brigade Orders, in which he recorded his appreciation of the excellent service performed by the garrison of Bhamo since it was occupied by British troops. He mentioned that he had already had the pleasure of bringing to the notice of his superiors the services of all employed in the expedition to Mogoung, and of those who served under his orders from the date of landing in Burmah until the occupation of Bhamo.

On the departure of the brigadier-general, the command of the brigade devolved on Colonel J. Tilly, R.W.F. ; Major Mainwaring assuming the command of the battalion.

Lieutenant C. Lysons died of enteric fever whilst in command of the detachment at Katha.

Colonel J. Tilly resumed the command of the battalion on the 26th of April, on the arrival of Brigadier-General R. Griffiths.

During the cold weather the health of the troops had been excellent ; but in the hot season, with but little to occupy them, a distressing amount of sickness and mortality broke out among the men. The battalion suffered severely, and many months elapsed after its arrival at Lucknow before it could be again pronounced fit for service.

Major Mainwaring proceeded in June to take over the command of the dépôt in India from Major Hadden, who joined the service companies.

The battalion received a welcome addition at Bhamo, on the 6th of November, of a draft from Lucknow of 230 non-commissioned officers and men under Captain Archdale and Lieutenant Barttelot.

On the 9th of November the detachment from Shwebo, 149 strong, under Captain Morris, Lieutenants King, Gough, and Mantell, rejoined Headquarters at Bhamo after a separation of eleven months, during which it had worthily upheld the reputation of the regiment.

Three companies of Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Creek, left Bhamo on the 14th of November for Katha. On the 29th

a company under Major Evans and Lieutenant Edwards formed part of a column which attacked and captured Mawlu, where the enemy had entrenched himself behind a strong stockade. Lieutenant Edwards, who was slightly wounded, and Privates Bibbings and Carless were highly commended for their conduct on this occasion.

1887. After some very active detached services, and forming an escort for the Burmese Minister to Htigyaing, all the detachments rejoined Headquarters at Bhamo in March 1887, where the battalion embarked for Mandalay, whence it proceeded to Rangoon, arriving there on the 24th of March, 1887. From Rangoon it embarked on H.M.S. *Dalhousie* for Calcutta. Leaving Calcutta, the battalion, numbering 12 officers and 484 other ranks, proceeded to Lucknow, where it arrived on the 2nd of April.

Colonel Tilly was made a C.B., Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Williamson received a Brevet-Colonelcy, and Captain H. T. Lyle the D.S.O.

The casualties in the battalion during the campaign in Burmah were :—

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Killed, or died of wounds ...	—	4
Wounded	2	11
Died of disease	1	87
Invalided	10	341
	—	—
Total ...	13	443

The total casualties, including invaliding, among the Expeditionary Force amounted to 214 British officers, 2,227 British rank and file, and 4,033 Native Indian troops of all ranks.

When in Mandalay the battalion obtained two magnificent bells from the "Incomparable Pagoda." One of these was sent to the brigade dépôt at Wrexham, where it hangs in the barrack square next to "Bell's Gun." The other stands in front of the First Battalion quarter-guard, and its wonderfully pure tones can be heard at a great distance as the hours are struck upon it. A third bell, smaller but beautifully engraved, was sent from Katha to the Second Battalion in Ireland.

1888. The medals granted for the Burmah campaign were presented to the FIRST BATTALION at a special parade at Lucknow on the 9th of February, when His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Frederick Roberts, G.C.B., V.C. (afterwards Earl Roberts), pinned the medal on each officer and man; an honour which was greatly appreciated, not only by the recipients, but by the entire regiment.

Subsequently the word "Burmah" was authorized to be borne on the regimental colours.

Whilst the FIRST BATTALION was serving in India and Burmah, the SECOND BATTALION was

quartered in Ireland. It was there, at his inspection in 1886 of the Second Battalion, that Major-General His Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar questioned the right of the Pioneers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to wear white buckskin aprons and gauntlets on parade. Application was made to the War Office, and H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge was pleased to approve of this distinctive addition to the uniform of the Pioneers, "provided no extra expense is incurred against the public."

On the 2nd of April, 1887, Colonel J. Williamson retired with the rank of major-general, and was succeeded in the command of the SECOND BATTALION by Colonel R. F. Williamson.

The Second Battalion received a goat from Her Majesty the Queen in May 1887.

In a Parliamentary Return issued in 1887, containing particulars as to the discipline of the British Army in 1885, it is recorded that "the best-disciplined regiment, judging by the number of courts martial, minor punishments, and desertion, is the SECOND BATTALION of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers."

1889. No change took place in the stations of the regiment in the year 1889; the FIRST BATTALION remained at Lucknow and the SECOND BATTALION in Ireland.

During this year the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, at home and in India, celebrated the two-hundredth

anniversary of the raising of the regiment with great *éclat*. Officers and men, as well as their friends and well-wishers, were able to look back upon the career of the regiment with just pride, conscious that nothing had occurred to dim its early glories, and that it had accumulated fresh laurels in each succeeding period of its long existence.

BOOK III

HAZARA, CRETE, CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA

CHAPTER XVIII

HAZARA (Black Mountain Expedition)

1891. The operations of the Hazara Field Force, which lasted from March till June 1891, were undertaken to assert our right to move along the crest of the Black Mountain without molestation, and to inflict punishment on the tribes concerned in border outrages. These objects were fully accomplished, and a more complete submission of the tribes was effected than on any previous occasion. The tribes assented to the construction of roads and of dominating posts on the frontier, and to the permanent expatriation of their turbulent chief, Hashim Ali Khan.

The force was divided into two brigades, each with its allotted field of operations. The First Brigade consisted of the Seaforths, King's Royal Rifles, and Native Indian troops, under the command of Brigadier-General R. F. Williamson. The FIRST BATTALION of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Norman, was included with Gurkhas and other Native Indian

troops in the Second Brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General A. G. Hammond, V.C., D.S.O.

The Second Brigade started for Ril *en route* for Seri on the 21st of March. On the 25th it crossed a river on a flying bridge, and ascended the Shal Nala up a most difficult track. About half a mile from the nala was the village of Darbanai, the capture of which had been decided upon.

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the 11th Bengal Infantry advanced direct on Darbanai, with the Khaibar Rifles on their right and the Gurkhas on their left. During the advance the enemy opened fire from the village and the spur above ; but as the troops fought their way forward the tribesmen abandoned the village, and retired down the slope of the hill towards Lower Sarmal, the Fusiliers following closely. The battalion had a few men wounded, and Lieutenant Doughty severely wounded.

On the following day the brigade crossed a nala and ascended to Sarmal, in and about which some five hundred of the enemy were collected. First the Gurkhas and then the Fusiliers reached the spur and quickly dislodged the enemy.

The First Brigade was equally successful ; and the operations among high hills, melting snow, torrential rains, and rushing streams were so vigorously carried on that the tribes submitted.

The Fusiliers remained in occupation until Hashim Ali Khan had surrendered.

"No troops," reported Brigadier-General Hammond, "could have behaved more steadily, or shown more eagerness to get to close quarters than the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and the Gurkhas, under Lieutenant-Colonels Norman and Molloy. . . . All ranks have borne with equal cheerfulness exposure to wet, cold, and heat, and have worked with a will in any service they were called upon to perform. Their discipline has been exemplary, and in action with the enemy they have shown themselves worthy of the traditions of the British and Native armies."

The FIRST BATTALION suffered a much-regretted loss by the death from pneumonia of Major E. R. Evans, concerning whom it was mentioned in dispatches that "he was unremitting in his attention to the welfare of his men, and never spared himself."

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Norman, R.W.F., Captain Sir R. A. W. Colleton, Bart., R.W.F. (brigade-major, Second Brigade), and Captain H. T. Lyle, D.S.O., R.W.F. (orderly officer to the commanding officer of the First Brigade), were mentioned in dispatches; and the India War Medal was granted to the officers and men engaged.

The battalion remained in India until 1897, when it returned to England.

CHAPTER XIX

CRETE

1897. The Christian inhabitants of Crete having revolted against Turkey early in 1897, and massacred a number of the Mahomedan population of the island, the European Powers intervened, and the chief towns were occupied by international troops. The Headquarters and four companies of the **SECOND BATTALION** Royal Welsh Fusiliers were dispatched from Malta to Candia (the old capital of Crete), where they were joined in August by the remainder of the battalion.

The battalion was stationed in Crete until December 1898, except for a few weeks in August 1898, which were spent in Cairo.

Although not engaged in any active operations, the troops lived under active service conditions, requiring the exercise of the utmost tact, patience, and vigilance.

Two companies of the battalion were sent in December 1897 to Canea (the capital), and early in 1898 several of the companies at Candia were

employed on outpost duty—a series of posts having been established some miles away from the town where markets were held, Christians and Mahomedans meeting there on neutral ground under the protection of the troops.

CHAPTER XX

CHINA

1899. The outbreak of the Boxer rebellion in North China imperilled the safety of all foreign residents. The trouble in Peking began on the 13th of June, 1899, when some three hundred Boxers entered the Tartar city near the Legation Settlement. A number of the princes and Imperial soldiers sided with the rebels, and the Chinese Government ordered the foreign Ministers to quit the city within twenty-four hours. The Ministers decided to remain, and hostilities commenced on the 20th of June. The German Minister was killed. All the women and children were brought into the British Legation, which was regarded as the last line of defence.

Warships and troops of many nations were hurried to their assistance. The advance towards Peking of an international column under Admiral Seymour met with a serious check, and its position became precarious.

TIENTSIN

The European Settlements at Tientsin were besieged by the Boxers, and the first operations of the international troops were directed to their relief. Major-General Gascoigne, commanding in China and Hong-Kong, detailed Major F. Morris, of the SECOND BATTALION Royal Welsh Fusiliers, to command the force sent from Hong-Kong to Tientsin, before he learnt that the command had been assigned to Colonel Dorward.

Major Morris arrived at Tonku at 5 a.m. on the 21st of June in command of the North China Field Force, which included a Naval Brigade, 7 officers and 328 other ranks of the 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Russians, United States Marines, and other troops.

All the stores, ammunition, stretchers, and medical comforts were on board a chartered steamer, which did not arrive until four days later. Ammunition and food had to be borrowed as required from the Royal Navy.

The railway line was found to have been destroyed to a great extent, and a force of Russians and United States Marines had sustained a repulse and the loss of a gun in their attempt to enter Tientsin on the previous day.

At 4 a.m. on the 23rd of June an advance was made on Tientsin—Russians on the right

and British and Americans on the left. The attack opened six miles from the city, a heavy fire being returned by the enemy. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the Naval Brigade, and the Americans had the Military School for their objective. For five miles they fought their way under a strong rifle fire, and several villages were rushed and taken at the point of the bayonet. The School was easily cleared of the enemy, who retreated, leaving twenty-five killed and wounded. It was an important position, holding the European Settlements, the relief of which was effected at 1 p.m., the inhabitants pouring out of their entrenchments to greet the soldiers and sailors as they crossed the river.

Major Morris was slightly wounded. Captain J. H. Gwynne and Lieutenant Walwyn of the regiment were specially commended in Major Morris's dispatch for their services on this occasion.

The troops then proceeded to the relief of Admiral Seymour's hard-pressed column at Taku. This was effected on the 25th of June, when it was ascertained that the naval column had lost 2 officers and 63 men killed, and 20 officers and 210 men wounded.¹ The entire

¹ In the light of recent events it is interesting to note the names of Jellicoe (wounded), Beatty (wounded), and Craddock, among those mentioned in Admiral Seymour's dispatch on operations at Taku and Tientsin.

force, including the wounded, retired to the Settlements at Tientsin. From this time until the 13th of July, when the Chinese city was captured, the Settlements were continuously bombarded.

The Chinese city was attacked by an allied force under Brigadier-General Dordard. The Arsenal was captured, diminishing the number of guns bombarding the Settlements. In the attack on the city the French were on the right, the Japanese in the centre, and the British (including Royal Welsh Fusiliers) and the Americans on the left. The impetuosity of the Japanese brought the Fusiliers and Americans under heavy enfilade fire; but they faced it in the steadiest manner, taking a position under fairly good cover, and during the whole day prevented a body of the enemy from making any forward movement.

The eventual withdrawal during the operations of the Fusiliers and Americans elicited the warm approval of the Brigadier-General.

The South Gate was stubbornly defended, costing the Fusiliers alone 5 men killed and 12 wounded. The Japanese sappers, at no small cost, succeeded in blowing it up, and the Fusiliers rushed in. In less than an hour, after some desultory street fighting, the city was captured, and the main body of the rebels retired towards Peking.

The SECOND BATTALION sustained heavy casualties in these operations, but the strength was brought up to 10 officers and 450 other ranks by the arrival on the 21st of July of a draft from Hong-Kong.

The Brigadier-General in his dispatch stated that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were well handled throughout the day by Captain Gwynne, and that they wasted less ammunition than any other body of troops on the ground. He also mentioned the meritorious conduct of Privates Doodson and Crew of the Fusiliers, who had bravely gone across 300 yards of fire-swept space to the succour of wounded men. Private Crew was killed whilst attempting to carry back a wounded comrade, but nevertheless the D.C.M. was awarded in his case as well as in that of Private Doodson. The D.C.M. was also conferred upon Sergeant C. W. Taylor, R.W.F., for his brave and collected conduct throughout the day. It was also recorded that "he was prominent in bringing in wounded men, and was generally a splendid example to the half company of which he was in charge."

PEKIN

Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Gaselee, K.C.B., commanding the British Contingent China Expeditionary Force, arrived at Tientsin on the 27th of July. A conference of the Allied com-

manders was held there on the 3rd of August, when it was arranged to advance on Peking with a force numbering a little over 20,000, composed of 10,000 Japanese with 24 guns, 4,000 Russians with 16 guns, 3,000 British (whose infantry consisted of Native Indian troops and 300 Royal Welsh Fusiliers) with 12 guns, 2,000 Americans with 6 guns, 800 French with 12 guns, 200 Germans, and 100 Austrians and Italians.

The force left Tientsin on the 5th of August and commenced operations by attacking a strongly entrenched Chinese position at Peitsang. The brunt of the action fell on the Japanese, to whom the entire credit of the victory was readily accorded. The British casualties were twenty-five killed and wounded.

On the 6th of August Yang-tsun was attacked. The advance was made over about 5,000 yards of level plain covered with high crops. At about half-distance the troops came under a hot shell and rifle fire. An embankment was carried by a rush of Sikhs and Punjabs. The Fusiliers, owing to the conformation of the ground, were rather wedged out of the assaulting line. The enemy fled precipitately.

At 2.30 a.m. on the 14th of August heavy firing was heard in the direction of Peking, a battalion of the Allied force having made a premature advance. The British, though much exhausted by their long march, struggled gamely

on and assaulted the South-East Gate of the Chinese city, Sha-chia-men, where, meeting with no opposition, they passed through the city wall.

Shortly before 3 p.m. Sir Alfred Gaselee with a few officers of his staff and about seventy men of the 1st Sikhs and 7th Bengal Infantry reached a point opposite the Water Gate. The British flag was flying on the Tartar Wall, but an ominous silence made the small party fear that the worst had occurred. Their fears were, however, soon relieved by seeing a flag signal urging them to "come up Sluice Street by Water Gate." They at once rushed across the almost dry canal and entered into the Legation zone through the Water Gate under the Tartar Wall. An ill-aimed fire was directed on them, but not a man was touched, and they had the supreme satisfaction of finding that Her Majesty's troops were the first to relieve the sorely pressed beleaguered garrison.

As the Lieutenant-General was moving towards the Water Gate, another party under Brigadier-General Sir Norman Stewart (which included the Royal Welsh Fusiliers) pushed along the main street until they reached the great thoroughfare running north into the Tartar city, where they turned to the right. At this point some forty or fifty of the enemy emerged from a side lane, but were easily dispersed. The advance of the party was continued towards

Chien-men, when they were met with a sharp fire from the enemy posted on the wall of the Tartar city. The bridge leading to the gate was at once seized and held. The Legation defenders for a short time failed to recognize their friends and fired on them. The Fusiliers meanwhile covered the left flank by occupying the roofs of houses and engaging the enemy holding the wall to the west of the gate. The Sikhs moved down Legation Street, clearing away the enemy still remaining and entered the British Legation. The Fusiliers and other units moved along the foot of the wall and also entered the Legation. The international troops disposed of the rebels in other parts of the city.

Sir Alfred Gaselee stated in his dispatch : " The troops have been subjected to a severe strain on account of the intense heat, want of good water, heavy mud or dust, and above all, want of sufficient rest. Their patient endurance and ardour has, however, more than compensated for these difficulties, and I am proud of the manner in which Her Majesty's British and Indian troops have acquitted themselves."

Captain Gwynne and Private Jackson of the Fusiliers were specially mentioned as having distinguished themselves at Yang-tsun. The reference to Private Jackson was as follows : " As some shells from one of our batteries were taking our troops and the Americans in reverse,

Private Jackson, R.W.F., volunteered to get up on the embankment and try to communicate with the battery. While doing so he was exposed to fire from both sides." He was awarded the D.C.M. for his conduct on this occasion.

PUNITIVE EXPEDITION TO PA-TA-CH'U

This was the head centre of the Boxer movement, where the Boxers had destroyed all the neighbouring foreign buildings. As a punishment for these acts, and with a view to striking a blow at the movement, a combined Allied operation was decided on, the command being entrusted to Brigadier-General Wilson, of the United States Army. The force included eighty-nine Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The resistance was short and ineffective. All the temples at Liukochao were occupied on the 16th of September by the Anglo-American troops without a single casualty. Several minor operations followed, resulting in the release of missionaries and their families in the surrounding villages.

Military operations were then confined to repression of brigandage and detached duties guarding 250 miles of railway.

In course of time order was restored, and the international troops were withdrawn from China, the SECOND BATTALION Royal Welsh Fusiliers leaving Peking on the 14th of August, 1901.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. R. H. Bertie was

mentioned in dispatches, as also were the "invaluable" services of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the only British infantry corps with the force.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bertie was appointed a C.B., Captain Gwynne became a brevet-major, and Lieutenant Walwyn received the D.S.O.

The regiment was authorized to add the word "Pekin" to the honours inscribed on its colours.

CHAPTER XXI

SOUTH AFRICA—1899-1902

DIFFICULTIES arising from the respective ambitions of the Dutch and British settlers in South Africa (now happily solved) became very acute when British capital, and British subjects skilled in industries and commerce, were introduced into the Transvaal in connection with the development of the gold mines, and the consequent prosperity of the Boer community.

The British who had helped to produce the wealth, after the manner of their race, claimed a voice in their government. The Boers, having in mind a previous annexation of the Transvaal, were not disposed to share their dominating position with the so-called "Outlanders"; and, being now possessed of ample means, accumulated arms and trained men for the defence of their independence.

They easily disposed of the raid led by Dr. Jameson in support of the claims of the Outlanders. Prominent Boers, elated with this success, spoke of driving the British out of South Africa.

Trouble had been brewing between the two races ever since the British defeat on Majuba Hill ; other causes, some of them of considerable importance, contributed at this time to make the avoidance of a conflict well-nigh impossible.

It became necessary to strengthen the British garrison, and troops were landed in Natal. President Kruger demanded their withdrawal ; this being refused, he declared war.

The Boers invaded Natal and other parts of the British possessions, and besieged Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley. The Orange Free State threw in their lot with the Transvaalers.

A large army was sent out from England. Among the first regiments chosen was the FIRST BATTALION Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 26 officers, and 1,074 other ranks, strong. It embarked at Southampton, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. H. Thorold, on the 23rd of October, 1899, and arrived at Durban, in Natal, on the 17th of November.

The battalion proceeded to join the force which, under General the Right Hon. Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., was endeavouring to relieve Ladysmith. It was included in the Sixth or Fusilier Brigade under Major-General Barton, C.B., together with the Second Battalion Royal Fusiliers, four companies of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and the Second Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers.

COLENZO

General Barton's brigade (less half a battalion in charge of baggage), took a prominent part in Sir Redvers Buller's attempt to force the passage of the River Tugela, near Colenso, on the 15th of December, 1899.

The enemy was entrenched in the kopjes north of Colenso bridge—one large camp near the Ladysmith Road, about five miles west of Colenso; another in the hills north of the Tugela. The Sixth Brigade moved at 4 a.m. east of the railway in the direction of Hlangwane Hill to a position where it could protect the right flank of General Hart's brigade, and, if necessary, support it or the mounted troops who were working round farther out.

The two batteries of the Royal Field Artillery, which had been moved out before the heavy guns of the Naval Brigade had accomplished their task, were wiped out by rifle fire at close range; and an attempt to recover the light guns was attended by heavy loss, including that of Lord Roberts's only son.

General Hart's brigade was forced to retire. Simultaneously, General Barton advanced on Colenso across the level, and by brilliant rushes reached the bank of the Tugela, but was unable to hold his position against the awful raking fire, and eventually retreated with much loss.

General Buller praised the "excellent conduct" of the troops throughout the day, which, in the words of Captain Jones, R.N., commanding the Naval Brigade, was "blazing hot."

After this serious reverse, and the failure to penetrate the enemy's position at Spion Kop, General Buller remained for a time more or less on the defensive.

RELIEF OF LADYSMITH

1900. The final effort which ultimately relieved Ladysmith began on the 14th of February, 1900, when the Fusilier Brigade carried Hussar Hill. On the 17th General Lyttelton's Division succeeded in occupying Angolo Mountain. On the 18th the Fusilier Brigade took Green Hill with small loss, and on the 19th they seized Hlangwane Mountain, which commanded the Boer position.

A correspondent of the *Times of Natal* wrote the following account of these operations as seen by an eye-witness :—

"When slowly advancing around a kopje known as Green Hill we could see the Boers firing at our men from heavily masked positions. Their 5-inch shells whistled through the air, their Maxim-Nordenfeldts hammered out the dread sound. It was impossible to see from where they fired, as they generally moved to a different

position after a volley, and trouble was caused in all the fighting lines.

“The Irish Fusiliers and the Welsh Fusiliers made the most of the work in front. These two battalions went to the right of the Hill of Monte Cristo, supported by the Scots Fusiliers and the Royal Fusiliers. The enemy completely evacuated the hill.

“Although the infantry under General Barton actually held the hill, the mounted brigade turned the Boer left. Our loss was almost nil, but the Boers have suffered a loss from which they will hardly recover.

“The work before us now is to capture the hills between Pieters and Umbulwana.”

The brigades became unavoidably mixed owing to the necessity of supporting General Hart's advance. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Royal Fusiliers were with Generals Lyttelton and Hildyard, holding the hills between Onderbrook and Langerwachte Valleys.

On the evening of the 22nd the Royal Welsh Fusiliers crossed the Tugela to relieve a regiment which had suffered severely on the north side of the river. They spent the night erecting a sangar on Horseshoe Hill, and held the position in spite of incessant fire. The next day, while holding this hill, the regiment had the great misfortune to lose Lieutenant-Colonel Thorold and Lieutenant Stebbing (both killed by pom-

pom shells). Seven other ranks were killed and 18 wounded.

They remained on the hill under a continuous fire, which went on even by night, the enemy being only 200 yards off, until the 27th of February. General Hildyard officially praised their coolness and gallantry amongst the heights which barred the way to Ladysmith.

Lieutenant Salt and Corporal W. Roberts were mentioned for conspicuous gallantry on the 24th of February in bringing the machine-gun into action by hand under great difficulties, and in working it under a heavy fire until the foresight was shot away and the gun rendered useless. Lieutenant Salt had a bullet through his helmet, Corporal Roberts was dangerously wounded, and there were fifty-one bullet-marks on the gun-carriage. Corporal Roberts was awarded the D.C.M., but Lieutenant Salt died of enteric fever before he could receive any reward.

General Buller made a feeling reference in his dispatch to the great loss the country had sustained by the death in action of Lieutenant-Colonel Thorold.

Pieters Hill was carried on the 27th of February by the Royal Scots, Royal Irish, and Royal Dublin Fusiliers under General Barton. Other brigades overcame difficulties elsewhere, and on the 28th Lord Dundonald, after dispersing a

body of Boers at Nelthorpe, pushed forward and entered Ladysmith.

"So," wrote General Buller, "was accomplished the relief of Ladysmith. It was the men who did it. Danger and hardship were nothing to them, and their courage, tenacity, and endurance were beyond all praise."

"Undeterred by previous failures," wrote Lord Roberts, "and regardless of fatigue, exposure, and heavy losses which decimated their ranks, they assaulted one position after another until they found or made a way into Ladysmith."

On the 1st of March the FIRST BATTALION, with leeks in their headgear (the gift of a Welsh colonial), marched to Nelthorpe, and two days later entered Ladysmith with the rest of the army through streets lined by the undaunted men who for four months had defended it under their indomitable chief, Sir George White, V.C., exposed to continual bombardment as well as to the privations of a protracted siege. Their pallid faces and tattered clothes bore testimony to their hardships. These were now over; and another splendid chapter had been added to the long roll of the honourable achievements of the British soldier and sailor.

ROOIDAM

After the relief of Ladysmith, the battalion embarked with the 10th Division under General Hunter for Cape Town.

On the 5th of May, 1900, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers played a conspicuous part in the action at Rooidam. "The advance of the Fusiliers," it was stated, "was irresistible, and for once the Boer loss, as they were hustled from kopje to kopje, appears to be greater than the British." The enemy force of 2,000 was routed with considerable loss, and the way was cleared for the flying column under Colonel Mahon to proceed to the relief of Mafeking.

Captain Lovett and 7 other ranks were killed, and 2 officers and 14 other ranks were wounded. Captain Mantell was mentioned in dispatches for his gallant and skilful leading on this occasion.

The battalion contributed twenty-five men to Colonel Mahon's column, and afterwards marched across the Western Transvaal to Krugersdorp, where Lieutenant-Colonel Sir R. Colleton took over its command.

VENTERSKROOM

On the 7th of August D and F Companies, under Captain Gough, took part in Lord Methuen's successful action against De Wet at Venterskroom, losing 1 man killed and 3 officers and 4 other ranks wounded.

The gallantry displayed by the detachments of the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 1st Royal

Welsh Fusiliers was specially mentioned in Lord Methuen's dispatch.

On the 5th of October the battalion, with the composite force under General Barton, left Krugersdorp and was engaged in his successful operations west of Pretoria—storming the strong positions of Dwarslei in the Magaliesberg and Buffelsdorn Pass in the Gatsraand.

FREDERICKSTAD

At Frederickstad on the 19th of October, General Barton's Fusilier column was surrounded by a large force of Boers under De Wet, and for six days had to endure an investment of ever-increasing severity. At last the Boers took up a position which commanded the British water supply. General Barton attacked them with half the FIRST BATTALION Royal Welsh Fusiliers and three companies of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, supported by some guns and mounted troops, and scattered them in all directions.

A mile of flat ground had to be traversed under a terrific fire and men fell fast; E Company of the battalion alone losing one-third of its numbers. There was, however, no hesitation, and the men closed in on their foes. Thirty-six dead and 30 wounded Boers were left on the field and 30 were taken prisoners.

From the 5th to the 25th of October the

battalion lost 1 officer and 17 other ranks killed, 5 officers and 41 other ranks wounded.

On the day when the battalion was taking its part in the breaking up of the investment at Frederickstad the annexation of the Transvaal was proclaimed at Pretoria, and Lord Roberts in his official account of the Proclamation ceremony stated: "Wales would have been represented by the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, but that distinguished corps is engaged to-day adding fresh laurels to its splendid reputation."

General Barton moved to Potchefstroom on the 28th of October and established a garrison there.

The battalion joined General Babington's column on the 25th of November, taking its share of the operations of the column in the Western Transvaal until the 18th of May, 1901. During this period the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were twice brought to the notice of Lord Kitchener for fine marching; on the 24th-25th of January from Ventersdorp to Vlaktefontein (Magaliesberg), covering 37 miles in 24 hours, to the assistance of General Cunningham; and marching 44 miles from Naawport to Ventersdorp to relieve Lichtenberg in 30 hours.

1901. Detachments from the battalion gained frequent recognition for convoy work, which the ceaseless activity of mobile parties of the enemy

had rendered particularly hazardous. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir R. Colleton earned the following commendation from General Mildmay Willson: "I consider the difficult task of getting the convoy from Ventersdorp through without loss reflects great credit on his dispositions." In connection with the conduct of a convoy from Cyferkeuil to Klerksdorp on the 22nd of April, Major H. T. Lyle, D.S.O., was mentioned as deserving great credit for bringing in the convoy safely, and Captain Delmé-Ratcliffe, who commanded the rear-guard, for "great coolness under a heavy cross-fire." Captain A. Hay, who was wounded, was mentioned in dispatches "for special good work" on the occasion of a Boer attack on a convoy to Ventersdorp on the 23rd of May. Sergeant Fisher on that occasion, by his presence of mind in shooting one of the team, prevented a limber from stampeding to the enemy.

But it was not alone in successful convoy work that the detachments gained distinction. On two occasions they showed the enemy that they could attack as well as they could defend. On the 24th of March, 1901, Lieutenant W. M. Kingdon's detachment attacked and captured Delarey's guns and convoy at Vaal Bank. Lieutenant Kingdon's "excellent services" on this occasion were recognized, as well as the gallantry of Sergeant Darragh, who "kept a very

superior force of the enemy at bay" when forming part of the rear-guard. On the 19th of July, Second-Lieutenant H. de B. Edwards, on his own initiative, conducted a night attack on a party of Boers near his own post, killing four and capturing three with all their horses and transport. Sergeant Cottrill and Privates Davies and Duglord were mentioned for their conduct in this night surprise.

From all of its commanders the battalion received the highest compliments. General Hildyard officially praised its coolness and gallantry in the Tugela operations. General Barton, in his farewell address to the officers and men at Potchefstroom, after referring to their twelve months' service in his brigade, said: "You belong to one of the most distinguished regiments in the British Army, and you may pride yourselves that you have not only maintained the reputation of your regiment, but have greatly increased it." General Babington in praising their convoy work said: "I have seen a good many regiments, but I know none to equal this regiment in its discipline, and in the way all duties are performed."

From the 25th of September, 1901, to the end of the war, the battalion was engaged in building and holding various blockhouse lines in the north-west of the Orange River Colony.

THE MOUNTED INFANTRY SECTION

When the Royal Welsh Fusiliers mobilized for the South African campaign they were ordered to provide one section of Mounted Infantry. This section joined the Second Battalion of Mounted Infantry and came into action on the 21st of December, 1899, at Colesberg, where they fought under Major McCracken for seven days and nights, for the first thirty-six hours of which period they were without rations.

They then assisted the Kimberley relief column. From the 15th to the 19th of February they engaged General Cronje's rear-guard, and were present during the fighting that resulted in the surrender of Cronje and his force. At the battle of Poplars Grove they formed part of the advanced-guard of General Kelly-Kenny's division, and they also saw fighting at Driefontein.

After the capture of Bloemfontein a column under General Broadwood was surprised and badly handled by a body of Boers and lost some guns; but the Mounted Infantry earned the thanks of General Broadwood for their gallantry. They were in the advance on Pretoria, gaining "bars" for the actions at Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, and Wittebergen, and were continuously employed until the end of the war, one of their achievements being the capture of Commandant Erasmus.

MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS

Although the Militia and Volunteer battalions of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers did not take part in the war as units, they were well represented, as no less than 15 officers and 345 non-commissioned officers and men of the Militia, and 8 officers and 366 non-commissioned officers and men of the Volunteers, shared the dangers and hardships of their Regular comrades in the campaign.

REWARDS

New battle honours, viz. "South Africa, 1899-1902" and "Relief of Ladysmith," were added to those of the regiment; and each of the Territorial battalions earned the battle honour of "South Africa, 1900-02."

The following officers were mentioned in dispatches for individual gallantry or meritorious service: "Lieutenant-Colonel Sir R. Colleton, Bart.; Majors H. T. Lyle, D.S.O., A. P. G. Gough, P. R. Mantell; Captain (Brevet-Major) C. M. Dobell, Captains R. S. Webber, Barttelot, H. Delmé-Ratcliffe, G. E. Rickman, W. G. Braithwaite, A. Hay, and the Hon. R. White; Lieutenants Salt, Kington, the Hon. C. R. Clegg-Hill, H. de B. Edwards, F. H. Nangle, and Quartermaster and Hon. Lieutenant Ransome. Of these, Lieutenant-Colonel Colleton was made a C.B., and Majors Gough, Mantell, Dobell,

Captain Braithwaite, and Lieutenants Clegg-Hill, H. de B. Edwards, and Kington were awarded the D.S.O.; Major H. T. Lyle, D.S.O., was made a brevet lieutenant-colonel, and Captain Webber promoted major.

Officers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers rendered valuable services in directions other than with the battalion.

The D.C.M. was conferred upon Sergeant-Major E. A. Parker, Colour-Sergeants King, Whinyates, and Stretch, Sergeants Hotchkiss, Hill, Cottrill, Darragh, and Fisher, Corporal W. Roberts, Lance-Corporals Townsend and T. James, Privates T. Evans, Price, Marshall, and E. Smith.

Privates Duglord, W. Davies, and R. Gray were promoted corporals by the Commander-in-Chief.

CASUALTIES

The losses of the regiment throughout the war were :—

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Killed	6	44
Died of wounds or disease ...	1	115
Wounded	15	160
Taken prisoners	1	51
Total	23	370

It is noteworthy that of 1,778 men who served with the battalion only 1 officer and 51 rank and

file were made prisoners, of whom only 19 were taken in the field—all the remainder having been invalids captured in trains derailed by the enemy.

The story of the services of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the South African campaign brings to a close this record of the achievements that won for the regiment the twenty-nine honours inscribed on its colours, and of the other honourable service in which it has been engaged in many parts of the globe.

In the titanic conflict now being waged by Britain and her Allies against the hosts of Germany, Austria, and Turkey, the regiment is adding fresh lustre to the glory with which its heroic deeds in the past have crowned the name of Royal Welsh Fusilier; and no one who has perused the foregoing pages can doubt that, in greater numbers than ever before—Regulars, Reserves, Territorials, and Special Service men—it will continue to extend its splendid reputation for undaunted valour, fine discipline, and steadfast endurance in the cause of its King and country.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

THE TITLE-PAGE OF CANNON'S HISTORICAL RECORDS

*By Command of His late Majesty William IVth
and under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen*



HISTORICAL RECORDS

OF THE

BRITISH ARMY

BY

RICHARD CANNON, ESQ.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, HORSE GUARDS

LONDON

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY

1847 ¹

¹ The Records of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were published in 1850.

APPENDIX B

THE TITLE-PAGE OF BROUGHTON-MAINWARING'S HISTORY

**HISTORICAL RECORD
OF THE
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS**

**LATE
THE TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT
OR
ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS
(The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers)**

**CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF THE FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT IN 1689
AND OF ITS SUBSEQUENT SERVICES TO 1889**

**ARRANGED BY
MAJOR ROWLAND BROUGHTON-MAINWARING
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS**

**In continuation of the compilation published in 1850 by
RICHARD CANNON, Esq.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES



**LONDON
HATCHARD'S, PICCADILLY
1889**

N.B.—Major Mainwaring's compilation commences with the year 1825.

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COLOURS OF THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

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APPENDIX C

THE COLOURS OF THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS

THE King's Colour of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers is a Union Jack with a Crown and the Roman numerals "XXIII" in its centre.

The Regimental Colour is a blue flag bearing upon it the following devices: In the top left-hand corner, a small Union Jack; in the bottom left-hand corner, the Red Dragon; in the top right-hand corner, the Rising Sun; in the bottom right-hand corner, the White Horse of Hanover with the motto "*Nec aspera terrent*" (Nor do difficulties appal). In the centre is a circular band surmounted by a Crown and surrounded with a floral wreath. Upon this band are the words "Royal Welsh Fusiliers," and within it are the Prince of Wales's Feathers issuing out of the Prince's coronet, which rests on a small scroll bearing the motto "*Ich Dien*." Underneath the coronet are the numerals "XXIII." Above, below, and on both flanks of the central device are yellow scrolls with the twenty-nine battle honours inscribed upon them, a Sphinx being over the word "Egypt."

APPENDIX D

THE following particulars are shown in the current ARMY LIST :—

THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

Regimental District, No. 23.

[No. 4 District.]

Uniform : Scarlet.

Facings : Blue.

Colonel-in-Chief : THE KING.

Colonel : Major-Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.

Depôt : Wrexham.

Record Office : Shrewsbury.

REGULAR AND SPECIAL SERVICE BATTALIONS.

First and Second Battalions 23rd Foot.

Third (Reserve) Battalion (Royal Denbigh and Flint Militia).

TERRITORIAL FORCE BATTALIONS.

Fourth Battalion (Denbighshire).

Fifth Battalion (Flintshire).

Sixth Battalion (Carnarvonshire and Anglesey).

Seventh Battalion (Merioneth and Montgomery).

SERVICE BATTALIONS.

These are numbered from Eighth to Twentieth inclusive. The Twelfth is a Reserve Battalion. The Thirteenth and Seventeenth are designated 1st and 2nd North Wales, and the Fifteenth and Eighteenth (Local Reserve) are the 1st and 2nd London Welsh. Two Garrison Battalions have recently been added.

BATTLE HONOURS.

First and Second Battalions.

The Sphinx, superscribed "Egypt."

"Namur, 1695," "Blenheim," "Ramillies," "Oudenarde,"
"Malplaquet," "Dettingen," "Minden," "Corunna,"
"Martinique, 1809," "Albuhera," "Badajoz," "Salamanca,"
"Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Orthes," "Toulouse,"
"Peninsula," "Waterloo," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol,"
"Lucknow," "Ashantee, 1873-74," "Burmah, 1885-87,"
"Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1889-1902,"
"Pekin, 1900.

Territorial Battalions.

"South Africa, 1900-02."

APPENDIX E

THE NUMERICAL PRECEDENCE AND TITULAR DESIGNATIONS OF THE BRITISH FOOT REGIMENTS, COMPILED FROM THE "ARMY LIST"

[The word "Foot" should be read after each number.]

- 1 The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment).
- 2 The Queen's (Royal West Surrey).
- 3 The Buffs (East Kent).
- 4 The King's Own (Royal Lancaster).
- 5 The Northumberland Fusiliers.
- 6 The Royal Warwickshire.
- 7 The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
- 8 The King's (Liverpool Regiment).
- 9 The Norfolk Regiment.
- 10 The Lincolnshire Regiment.
- 11 The Devonshire Regiment.
- 12 The Suffolk Regiment.
- 13 Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry).
- 14 The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment).
- 15 The East Yorkshire Regiment.
- 16 The Bedfordshire Regiment.
- 17 The Leicestershire Regiment.
- 18 The Royal Irish Regiment.
- 19 Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment).
- 20 The Lancashire Fusiliers.
- 21 The Royal Scots Fusiliers.
- 22 The Cheshire Regiment.

- 23 The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
- 24 The South Wales Borderers.
- 25 The King's Own Scottish Borderers.
- 26 The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), First Battalion.
- 27 The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, First Battalion.
- 28 The Gloucestershire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 29 The Worcestershire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 30 The East Lancashire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 31 The East Surrey Regiment, First Battalion.
- 32 The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, First Battalion.
- 33 The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment),
First Battalion.
- 34 The Border Regiment, First Battalion.
- 35 The Royal Sussex, First Battalion.
- 36 The Worcestershire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 37 The Hampshire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 38 The South Staffordshire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 39 The Dorsetshire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 40 The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire
Regiment), First Battalion.
- 41 The Welsh Regiment, First Battalion.
- 42 The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), First Battalion.
- 43 The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry,
First Battalion.
- 44 The Essex Regiment, First Battalion.
- 45 The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire
Regiment), First Battalion.
- 46 The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Second
Battalion.
- 47 The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 48 The Northamptonshire Regiment, First Battalion.
- 49 Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment),
First Battalion.
- 50 The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), First
Battalion.
- 51 The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry), First
Battalion.

- 52 The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, Second Battalion.
- 53 The King's (Shropshire Light Infantry), First Battalion.
- 54 The Dorsetshire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 55 The Border Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 56 The Essex Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 57 The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), First Battalion.
- 58 The Northamptonshire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 59 The East Lancashire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 60 The King's Royal Rifle Corps.
- 61 The Gloucestershire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 62 The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), First Battalion.
- 63 The Manchester Regiment, First Battalion.
- 64 The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment), First Battalion.
- 65 The York and Lancaster Regiment, First Battalion.
- 66 Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 67 The Hampshire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 68 The Durham Light Infantry, First Battalion.
- 69 The Welsh Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 70 The East Surrey Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 71 The Highland Light Infantry, First Battalion.
- 72 Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's), First Battalion.
- 73 The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), Second Battalion.
- 74 The Highland Light Infantry, Second Battalion.
- 75 The Gordon Highlanders, First Battalion.
- 76 The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 77 The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 78 The Seaforth Highlanders, Second Battalion.
- 79 The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

- 80 The South Staffordshire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 81 The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 82 The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 83 The Royal Irish Rifles, First Battalion.
- 84 The York and Lancaster Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 85 The King's (Shropshire Light Infantry), Second Battalion.
- 86 The Royal Irish Rifles, Second Battalion.
- 87 Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers), First Battalion.
- 88 The Connaught Rangers, First Battalion.
- 89 Princess Victoria's (Royal Irish Fusiliers), Second Battalion.
- 90 The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Second Battalion.
- 91 Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), First Battalion.
- 92 The Gordon Highlanders, Second Battalion.
- 93 Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Second Battalion.
- 94 The Connaught Rangers, Second Battalion.
- 95 The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 96 The Manchester Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 97 The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 98 The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 99 The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), Second Battalion.
- 100 The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), First Battalion.
- 101 The Royal Munster Fusiliers, First Battalion.
- 102 The Royal Dublin Fusiliers, First Battalion.
- 103 The Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Second Battalion.
- 104 The Royal Munster Fusiliers, Second Battalion.

- 105 The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry), Second Battalion.
- 106 The Durham Light Infantry, Second Battalion.
- 107 The Royal Sussex Regiment, Second Battalion.
- 108 The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Second Battalion.
- 109 The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians), Second Battalion.
- The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

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